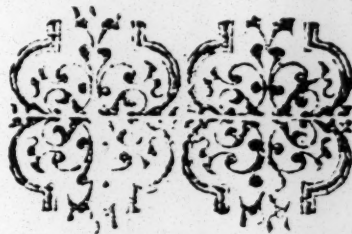


THE
PLEASANT HISTORIE
OF
Dorastus and Fawnia.

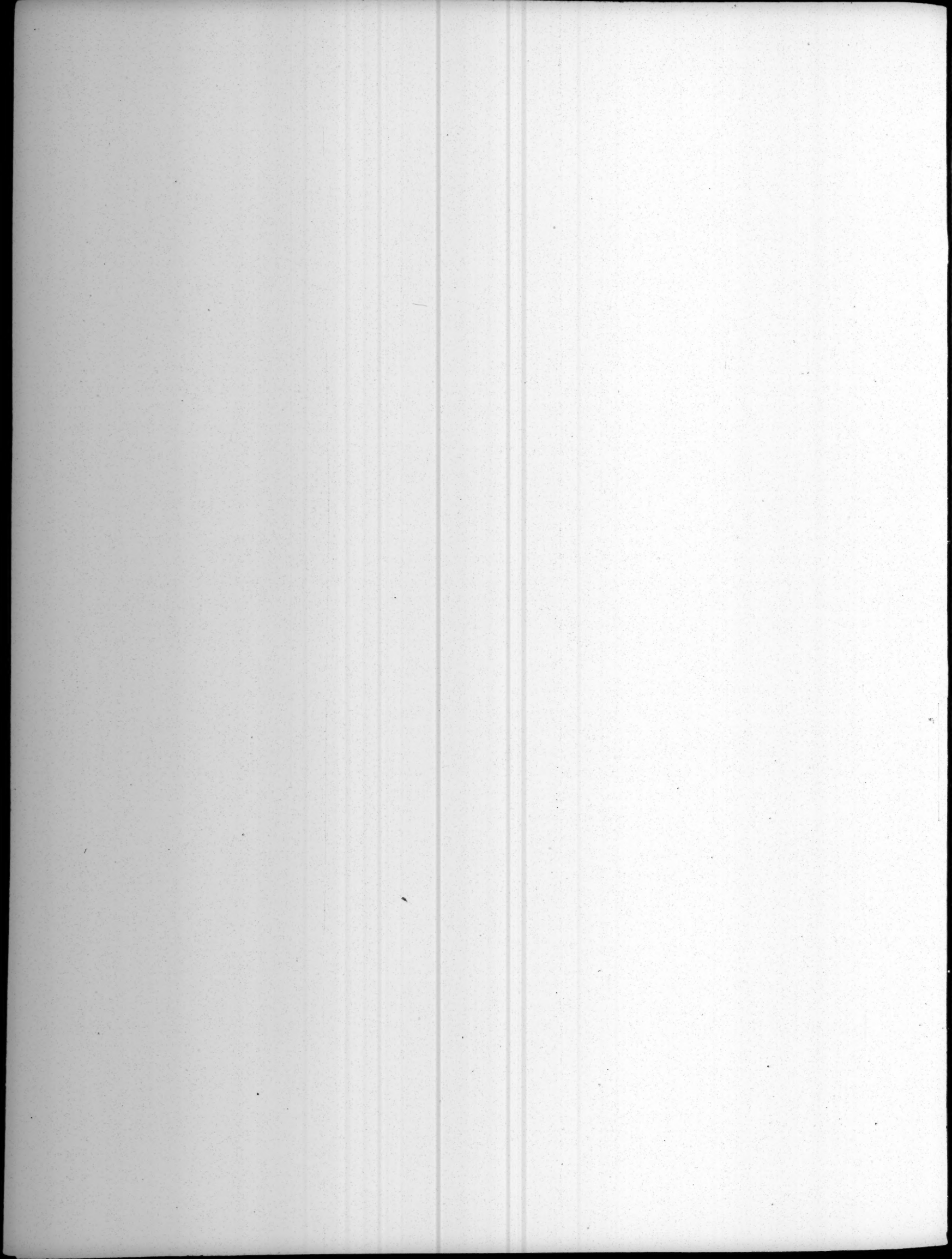
VVherein is discovered, that
although by the meanes of sinister
Fortune, *Truth* may be concealed; yet
by *Time*, in spite of *Fortune*, it
is manifestly revealed,

Pleasant for age to avoyd drowfie thoughts,
Profitable for *Youth* to avoyd other wanton
Pastimes: And bringing too both
a desired Content.

Temporis filia Veritas.
By ROBERT GREENE, Master of Arts in Cambridge.
Omne tulit punctum qui miscuit utile dulci.



LONDON,
Printed by T. P. for *Francis Faulkner*, and are to bee sould
in his Shop in Southwarke neere Saint Dunstons Church.





THE HISTORIE OF DORASTVS AND FAWNI A.

Amongst all the passions wherewith humane minds are perplexed, there is none that so galleth with restlesse despiht, as that infectious soze of Jealousie: For all other griefes are eyther to be appeased with sensible perswasion, to be cured with wholesome counsell, to be relieved in want, or by tract of time to be woꝛne out, Jealousie onely accepted, which is sauced with suspitious doubts, and pinching mistrust, that who so seeks by friendly counsell to raze out this bellish passion, it soztly with suspecteth that he giueth this aduice to couer his owne guiltinesse. Yea, who so is pinched with this restlesse toꝛment, doubteth all, disturbeth himselfe, is alwaies frozen with feare, & fired with suspition, hauing that wherein consisteth all his joy, to bee the breeder of his misery. Yea, it is such an heauy enemy to that heauy estate of matrimony, sowing between the married couples such deadly seedes of secret hatred, as loue being once razed out by spightfull distrust, there oft ensueth bloody reuenge, as this ensuing Histoꝛy manifestly pꝛoueth, wherein Pandosto (furiously incensed by a causes jealousy) procured the death of his most louing and loyall wife, and his owne endles soꝛow and misery.

In the Countrey of Bohemia, there raigned a King called Pandosto, whose soꝛtunate successe in Warres agaynst his Foes, and bountifull courtesie towarde his Friends in Peace, made him to be greatly feared and loued of all men. This Pandosto had to wife a Lady called Bellaria, by birth royal, learned by education, faire by nature, by vertues famous: so that it was hard to iudge, whether her beauty, soꝛtune, or ver-

The History of

the, was the greatest commendations. These two linked together in perfect love, led their lives with such fortunate content, that their subjects greatly rejoiced to see their quiet disposition. They had not been married long, but fortune (willing to increase their happiness) lent them a Sonne, so adorned with the gifts of Nature, as the perfection of the Child greatly augmented the love of the Parents, and the joy of their Commons: in so much that the Bohemians, to shew their inward joyes by outward actions, made Bonifires and Triumphes throughout all the Kingdom, appointing Juits and Turneyes, for the honour of their young Prince: whether resorted not onely his Nobles, but also diuers Kings and Princes which were his Neighbours, willing to shew their friendship they ought to Pandosto, and to win fame and glory by their prowess & valour, Pandosto whose minde was fraught with Princely liberality, entertained the Kings, Princes, and Noble-men with such submisle courtesie, and magnificall bounty, that they all saw how willing hee was to gratifie their good wills, making a generall Feast of all his Subjects, which continued by the space of Twenty dayes; all which time the Juits and Turneyes were kept, to the great content both of the Lords and Ladies there present. This solemne Triumph being once ended, the assembly taking their leave of Pandosto and Bellaria, the young Son (who was called Garinter) was nursed up in the house, to the great joy and content of their Parents. Fortune envious of such happy successe, willing to shew some signe of her inconstancy, turned her wheele and darkened their bright Sunne of prosperity, with the misty Clouds of mishap and misery. For so it happened; that Egistus King of Sicilia, who in his youth had beene brought up with Pandosto, desirous to shew, that neither tract of time, or distance of place could diminish their former friendship, provided a Paue of ships, and sailed into Bohemia, to visite his old friend and companion: who hearing of his arrivall, went himselfe in person, and his wife Bellaria, accompanied with a great traine of Lords and Ladies to meet Egistus, & espying him, alighted from his horse, embraced him very lovingly, protesting, that nothing in the world could have happened more acceptable to him then his coming, wishing his wife to welcome his old friend and acquaintance:

Dorastus and Fawnia.

tance; who (to shew how she liked him whom her husband loved) entertained him with such familiar courtesie, as Egistus perceived himselfe to be very well welcome. After they had thus saluted and embraced each other, they mounted againe on Horsebacke, and rode toward the Citty, devising and recounting, how being children, they had passed their youth in friendly pastimes: where, by the meanes of the Citizens, Egistus was received with triumphs and shewes, in such sort, that hee marvelled how on so small a warning they could make such preparation. Passing the Streets thus with such rare lights, they rode on to the Palace: where Pandosto entertained Egistus and his Syccilians with such banqueting and sumptuous cheere, so royally, as they had all cause to commend his Princely liberality: yea, the very basest Slave that was knowne to come from Sicilia, was blessed with much courtesie, that Egistus might easily perceiue, how both he and his were honoured for his friends sake. Bellaria (who in her time was the Flowre of Courtesie) willing to shew how unfainedly she loved her husband, by her friends entertainment blessed him likewise so familiarly, that her countenance bewzaied how her heart was affected toward him: oftentimes comming her selfe into his Bed-chamber, to see if nothing should bee amisse to dislike him. This honest familiarity increased dayly more and more betwixt them: for Bellaria noting in Egistus a Princely and bountifull mind, adozned with sundry & excellent qualities, and Egistus finding in her a vertuous & courteous disposition, there grew such a secret uniting of their affections, that the one could not well be without the company of the other: insomuch that when Pandosto was busied with such urgent affaires, that he could not be present with his friend Egistus, Bellaria would walke with him into the Garden, & there they two in private pleasant devices, would passe away their time to both their contents. This custome still continuing betwixt them, a certaine melancholy passion entring the mind of Pandosto, dzove him into sundry and doubtfull thoughts. First, he called to mind the beauty of his wife Bellaria, the comelinesse and brauery of his friend Egistus, thinking that love was aboue all Lawes, & therefore to be staied with no Halp, that it was hard to put fire & flax together without burning, that their open pleasure might breed
his

The History of

his secret displeasures. He considered with himselfe that Egistus was a man, and must needes loue: that his wife was a woman, and therefore subject to loue: and that where fancy forced, friendship was of no force. These and such lik doubtfull thoughts a long time smothering in his stomacke, began at last to kindle in his minde a secret mistrust, which, increased by suspicion, grew at last to flaming ieaousie, that so tormented him, as he could take no rest. He then began to measure all their actions, and misconstrue of their too priuate familiarity, judging that it was not for honest affection, but for disordinate fancy: so as he began to watch them more narrowly, to see if hee could get any true or certaine pzoofe to confirme his doubtfull suspicion. While thus he noted her lookes and gestures, and suspected their thoughts & meanings, they two silly Soules, who doubted nothing of this his treacherous intent, frequented daily each others company: which dzaue him into such a franticke passion, that he began to beare a secret hate to Egistus, and a lowzing countenance to Bel-laria: who maruelling at such vnaccustomed frownes, began to cast beyond the Moone, and to enter into a Thousand sundry thoughts, which way she should offend her husband: but finding in her selfe a cleere conscience, ceased to muse, till such time as shee might finde opportunity to demaund the cause of his dumps. In the meane time Pandostos minde was so farre charged with Ieaousie, that hee no longer doubted, but was assured (as hee thought) that his friend Egistus entred a wrong point in his fables, and so had plaid him false play. Whereupon desirous to re-venge so great an injury, he thought best to dissemble the grudge with a faire and friendly countenance: and so vnder the shape of a friend, to shew him the trickes of a foe: deuising with himselfe a long time how he might best put away Egistus, without suspiti-on of treacherous murther, concluded at last to popson him. Which opinion pleasing his humoz, hee became resolute in his determination, & the better to bring the matter to passe, he called to him his Cup-bearer, with whom in secret he bzake the matter: promising him for the performance thereof, to giue him a thou-sand Crownes of poerly reuenuue. His Cup-bearer, either being of a good conscience, or willing for fashions sake to deny such a bloody request, began with great reasons to perswade Pandosto from

Dorastus and Fawnia.

from his determinate mischiefe: shewing him what an offence murder was to the Gods, how much unnaturall actions did more displease the heavens, then men: and that causes cruelty did seldome or never escape without reuenge: he laid befoze his face that Egistus was his friend, a King, & one that was come into his Kingdome, to confirme a league of perpetuall amitie betwixt them, that he had & did shew him a most friendly countenance: how Egistus was not onely honozed of his owne people by obedience, but also loued of the Bohemians for his courtesie: And that if he now should, without any iust or manifest cause, poyson him, it would not onely be a great dishonoz to his Majesty, and a meanes to shew a perpetuall enmity betweene the Sy-cilians and the Bohemians, but also his owne subjects would repine at such trecherous cruelty. These and such like perswasions of Franion (for so was his cupbearer called) could no whit preuaile to dissuade him from his diuillish enterprize: but remaining resolute in his determination (his fury so fired with rage, as it could not be appeased with reason) he began with bitter taunts to take vpon his man, and to lay befoze him two baits, preferment and death: saying, that if he would poyson Egistus, he would aduance him to high dignities: if hee refused to doe it of an obstinate minde, no torture should bee too great to requite his disobedience. Franion, seeing that to perswade Pandosto any more, was but to strive against the streame, consented as soone as opportunity would giue him leaue, to dispatch Egistus: wherewith Pandosto remained somewhat satisfied, hoping now hee should be fully reuenged of such mistrusted injuries, intending also as soone as Egistus was dead, to giue his wife a sop of the same sauce, and so to be rid of those which are the cause of his restless sorrow: while thus he liued in this hope, Franion being secret in his chamber, began to meditate with himselfe in these tearmes.

A Franion, treason is loued of many, but the traitor hated of all, vnjust offences may for a time escape without danger, but neuer without reuenge. Thou art seruant to a king, and must obey at command yet, Franion, against law and conscience it is not good to resist a tyrant with armes, nor to please an vnjust King with obedience. What shalt thou doe? Folly refused

The History of

gold, and frenzy preferment; wisdom seeketh after dignitie, and counsell looketh for gaine: Egistus is a stranger to thee, and Pandosto thy Soueraigne: Thou hast little cause to respect the one, and oughtest to haue great care to obey the other. Thinke this, Franion, that a pound of Gold is worth a Tunne of lead: great gifts are little gods; and preferment to a meane man, is a whet-stone to courage. There is nothing sweeter then promotion, nor lighter then report: care not then though most count thee a traitor, so all call thee rich. Dignity, Franion, aduanceth thy posterity, and euill report can but hurt thy selfe. Know this where Eagles build, Faucons may prey; where Lyons haunt, Foxes may steal. Kings are knowne to command, seruants are blameles to consent: feare not thou then to list at Egistus, Pandosto shall beare the burthen. Hea, but Franion, conscience is a worme that ever biteth, but neuer ceaseth. That which is rubbed with the stone Galectities, will neuer bee hot. Flesh dipped in the Sea Aegeum, will neuer bee sweet. The Herbe Trigon, being once bit with an Apis, neuer groweth: and conscience once stayned with innocent bloud, is alwaies tied to a guilty remorse. Preferre thy content before riches, and a cleare minde before dignity: so being poore, thou shalt haue rich peace, or else rich, thou shalt enjoy disquiet.

FRanion hauing muttered out these or such like words, seeing either he must die with a cleare mind, or liue with a spotted conscience: hee was so cumbered with diuers cogitations, that he could take no rest, untill at last he determined to breake the matter to Egistus: but fearing that the King should either suspect or heare of such matters, he concealed the deuice till opportunitie would permit him to reueale it. Lingring thus in doubtful feare, in an Evening he went to Egistus lodging, and desirous to speake with him of certaine affaires that touched the King, after all were commanded out of the Chamber. Franion made manifest the whole conspiracy which Pandosto had deuised against him, desiring Egistus not to account him a traitor for betraying his Masters counsell, but to thinke that hee did it for conscience: hoping that although his Master inflamed with rage, or incensed by some sinister reports, or slanderous speecche,

Dorastus and Fawnia.

speeches, had imagined such causelesse mischief, yet when time should pacifie his anger, and try those talebearers but flattering Parasites, then he would count him as a faithfull Seruant, that with such care had kept his maisters credit. Egistus had not fully heard Franion tell forth his Tale, but a quaking feare possessed all his limmes, thinking that there was some treason wrought, and that Franion did but shaddow his craft with these false colours: wherefoze he began to wane in choller, and sayd, that he doubted not Pandolto, sith he was his friend, and there had neuer as yet been any breach of amitie: he had not sought to invade his Lands, to conspire with his enemies, to dissuade his Subjects from their allegiance: but in word and thought he rested his at all times: he knew not therefore any cause, that should moue Pandolto to seeke his death, but suspected it to bee a compacted knauery of the Bohemians, to bring the King and him at oddes. Franion staying him in the midst of his talke, told him, That to dally with Princes was, with the Swannes to sing against their death, and that if the Bohemians had intended any such mischief, it might haue been better brought to passe, then by reuealing the conspiracy: therefore his Majesty did ill, to misconstrue of his good meaning, sith his intent was to hinder treason, not to become a Traytor: and to confirme his promises. If it pleased his Majesty to flye into Sycilia, for the safeguard of his life: hee would goe with him: and if then hee found not such a practise to bee pretended, let his imagined treachery be repayed with most monstrous torments. Egistus hearing the solempne protestations of Franion, beganne to consider, that in Love and Kingdomes, neither Faith nor Law is to be respected: doubting that Pandolto thought by his death to destroy his Son, and with speedie Maie to invade Sycilia. These and such doubts thoroughly weighed, hee gaue great thanks to Franion, promising, if hee might with life returne to Syracuse, that hee would create him a Duke in Sycilia: crauing his counsell how he might escape out of the Countrey. Franion, who hauing some small skill in Nauigation, was well acquainted with the Ports and Hauens, and knew euery danger in the Sea, joyning in counsell with the Maister of Egistus Shauy, rigged all their ships,

The History of

and setting them afloat, let them lie at anchor, to be in the more readinesse, when time and wind should serue. Fortune, although blind, yet by chance, fauouring this iust cause, sent them within six dayes a good gale of wind: which Franion seeing fit for their purpose, to put Pandosto out of suspicion, the night before they should sayle, he went to him and promised, that the next day he would put the deuise in practice; for he had got such a forcible popson, as the very smell thereof would procure sudden death. Pandosto was joyfull to heare this good newes, & thought euery houre a day, till he might be glutted with bloody reuenge: but his suit had but ill successe: for Egistus fearing that delay might breed danger, and willing that the grasse should not be cut from vnder his feet, taking bag and baggage, by the helpe of Franion conueyed himselfe, and his men out at the Posterne gate of the Citty, so secretly, and speedily, that without any suspicion they got to the Sea shore: where, with many a bitter curse, taking their leaue of Bohemia, they went aboard, weighing their Anchors, and hoisting saile, they passed as fast as wind & Sea would permit towards Sycilia: Egistus being a ioyfull man that he had safely passed such treacherous perils. But as they were quietly floating on the sea, Pandosto and his Citizens were in an uprore: for seeing that the Sycilians without taking their leaue were fled away by night, the Bohemians feared some treason, and the King thought that without question his suspicion was true, seeing the Cup-bearer had betrayed the sum of his secret pretence. Whereupon he began to imagine that Franion and his wife Bellaria had conspired with Egistus, and that the seruent affection she bare him, was the onely meane of his secret departure, insomuch, that incensed with rage, he commaunded that his wife should be carried straight to prison, vntill they heard further of his pleasure. The Guards unwilling to lay their hands on such a vertuous Princess, and yet fearing the Kings fury, went very sorrowfully to fulfill their charge: coming to the Queenes Lodging, they found her playing with her young Sonne Garinter vnto whom with teares doing their message, Bellaria astonished at such a hard censure, and finding her cleare conscience a sure advocate to plead in her cause, went to the Prison most willingly: where with sighes and
teares

Dorastus and Fawnia.

teares she pass away the time, till she might come to her tryall.

But Pandosto, whose reason was suppressed with rage, and whose unbidded folly was incensed with fury, seeing Franion had betrayed his secrets, and that Egistus might well be railed on, but not revenged: determined to wreak all his wrath on poore Bellaria. He therefore caused a generall proclamation to be made through all his Realme, that the Queene and Egistus had by the helpe of Franion, not onely committed most incestuous adultery, but also had conspired the Kings death: whereupon the traitor Franion was fled away with Egistus, & Bellaria was most justly imprisoned. This Proclamation being once blazed through the country, although the vertuous disposition of the Queene did halfe discredit the contents, yet so suddaine and speedy message of Egistus, & the secret departure of Franion induced them (the circumstances thoroughly considered) to think that both the Proclamation was true, and the King greatly enuied: yet they pittied her case, as sorrowfull that so good a Lady should be crossed with such aduerse Fortune. But the King, whose restless rage would admit no pittie, though that although he might sufficiently requite his wiues falshood with the bitier plague of pinching penurie, yet his minde should neuer be glifted with reuenge, till he might haue a fit time and opportunity to repay the treachery of Egistus, with a fatall injury. But a curst Cow hath often-times short hornes, and a willing mind but a weake arme. For Pandosto, although he felt that reuenge was a spurre to warre, and that enuy alwayes proffereth Steele, yet he saw, that Egistus was not onely of great puissance and prowesse to withstand him, but had also many Kings of his alliance to ayd him, if need should serue: for he married the Emperours daughter of Rulsia. These and the like considerations something daunted Pandosto his courage, so that he was content rather to put vp a manifest injury with peace, then hunt after reuenge, dishonour and losse: determining, since Egistus had escaped scot-free, that Bellaria should pay for all at an unreasonable price.

Remayning thus resolute in his determination, Bellaria continuing still in Prison, and hearing the contents of the Proclamation, knowing that her minde was neuer touched with

The History of

such affection, nor that Egistus had euer offered her such discontentie, would gladly haue come to her answer, that both she might haue knowne her iust accusers, and cleared her selfe of that guiltlesse crime.

But Pandofo was so enflamed with rage, and infected with Ielousie, as he would not vouchsafe to heare her, nor admit any iust excuse: so that shee was fayne to make a vertue of her need, and with patience to heare these heauy injuries. As thus shee lay crossed with calamities (a great cause to increase her griefe) shee found her selfe quicke with child: which as soone as she felt it in her body, shee burst forth into bitter teares, exclayming against Fortune in these termes.

A Las, Bellaria, how infortunate art thou, because fortunate! Better thou hadst been borne a Beggar then a Prince, so shouldst thou haue bridled Fortune with want, where now shee sporteth her selfe with thy plenty. Ah happie life, where poore thoughts, and meane desires liue in secure content, not fearing Fortune, because too low. For Fortune, thou seest now, Bellaria, that care is a companion to Honor, not to poverty: that high Cedars are crushed with tempests, when low Shrubs are not touched with the Wind: precious Diamonds are cut with the File, when despised Pebble lyes safe in the sand: Delphos is sought to by Princes, not Beggars: and Fortunes Altare smoke with kings presents, not with poore mens gifts. Happy are such, Bellaria, that curse Fortune for contempt, not feare: and may wish they were not lozry they haue bene. Thou art a Princesse, Bellaria, and yet a prisoner: borne to the one by descent, assigned to the other by despight: accused without cause, and therefore oughtest to die without care: for patience is a shield against Fortune, and a guiltlesse mind yeeldeth not to sorrow. Ah, but infamy galleth vnto death, and liueth after death: Reputation is plumed with Times Feathers, and Envy often-times soundeth Fames Trumpet: the suspected adultery shall lye in the Ayre, and thy knowne vertues shall lye hid in the Earth: one Moale stayneth a whole Face; and what is once spotted with Infamy, can hardly be worne out with Time. Dye then, Bellaria, Bellaria dye, for if the gods should say, thou art guiltlesse,

Dorastus and Fawnia.

lesse, yet Enuy would heare the gods, but neuer believe the gods. Ah, haplesse wretch, cease these termes : Desperate thoughts are fit for them that feare shame, not for such as hope for credit. Pandosto hath darkned thy fame, but shall neuer discredit thy Vertues. Subtition may enter a false Action, but proofoe shall neuer put in his plea. Care not then for Enuy sith Repoyt hath a blister on her Tongue : and let sorrow bite them which offend, not touch thee that art faultlesse. But alas, poore Soule, how canst thou but sorrow : Thou art with Child, and by him, that instead of kind pittie, pincheth thee in cold prison. And with that, such gasping sighes stopping her breath that she could not utter any more words, but wringing her hands, and gushing forth streames of teares, she passed away the time with bitter complaints.

The Taylor pittying those her heavy passions, thinking that if the King knew she were with Child, he would somewhat appease his fury, and release her from prison, went in all hast, & certified Pandosto what the effect of Bellaria's complaynt was : who no sooner heard the Taylor say she was with Child, but as one possessed with a phrensie, he rose vp in a rage, swearing that she, and the bastard byat she was withall, should die, if the gods themselves said no : thinking surely by computation of time, that Egillus, & not he, was Father to the Child. This suspitious thought galled afresh his halfe-healed Soze, in so much as hee could take no rest, untill he might mittigate his choler with a iust reuenge, which happened presently after. Bellaria was brought to bed of a faire and beautifull Daughter, which no sooner Pandosto heard, but he determined that both Bellaria and the young Infant should be burnt with fire. His Nobles, hearing of the Kings cruell sentence, sought by perswasions to diuert him from his bloudy determination : saying befoze his face, the innocency of the Child, and vertuous disposition of his wife how she had continually loued and honoured him so tenderly, that without due proofoe he could not, nor ought not to appeach her of that crime : and if shee had faulted, yet it were more honorable to pardon with mercy, then to punish with extremitie, and more kingly, to be commended of pittie, then to discredit her. And
as

The History of

as for the Child, if he would punish it for the mothers offence, it were to strike against nature and justice ; and that unnatural actions doe more offend the gods, then men : how causelesse cruelty, nor innocent blood never escapes without reuenge. These and such like reasons could not appease his rage, but he rested resolute in this, that Bellaria being an Adulteresse, the child was a bastard, and he would not suffer that such an infamous Bastard should call him Father. Yet at last (seeing his noble men were importunate vpon him) he was content to spare the childs life, and yet to put it to a worse death. For he found out this deuice, that seeing (as hee thought) it came by Fortune, so hee would commit it to the charge of Fortune, and therefore he caused a little cock-boate to be provided, where in he meant to put the babe, and then send it to the mercies of the seas and the destinies. From this his Decree in no wise could perswade him, but that he sent presently two of his Guard to fetch the Child : who being come to the Prison, and with weeping teares recounting their Masters message. Bellaria no sooner heard the rigorous resolution of her mercilesse husband, but shee fell downe in a swoond, so that all thought she had been dead : yet at last being come to her selfe, she cryed and screeked out in this wise.

Alas, sweet infortunate Babe, scarce borne before enuied by fortunate, would the day of thy birth had been y^e terme of my life : then shouldest thou haue made an end to care, and preuented thy Fathers rigour. Thy faults cannot yet deserue such hatefull reuenge, thy dayes are too short for so sharpe a doome : but thy vntimely death must pay thy Mothers debts, and her guiltlesse crime must bee thy gastly curse. And shalt thou, sweet Babe, be committed to Fortune, when thou art already spighted by Fortune : Shall the Seas be thy harbour, and the hard boat thy cradle : Shall thy tender mouth, instead of sweet kisses, be nipped with bitter stormes : Shall thou haue the whistling windes for thy Lullaby, and the salt sea some instead of sweet Milke : Alas, what destinies would assigne such hard hap : What father would be so cruell : Or what gods will not reuenge such rigour : Let me kisse thy lips (sweet Infant) and wet thy tender Cheekes with my teares, & put this Chaîne about

Dorastus and Fawnia.

about thy little necke: that if Fortune saue thee, it may helpe to succour thee. Thus, since thou must goe to surge in the gasfull Seas, with a sorrowfull kisse I bid thee farewell, and I pray the gods thou maist fare well. Such and so great was her griefe that her vitall Spirits being supprest with sorrow, she fell againe downe in a trance, hauing her senses so spotted with care, that after she was reuiued, yet she lost her memorie, and lay for a great time without mouing, as one in a trance. The Guard left her in this perplexity, and carried the Child to the King: who quite deuoyd of pittie, commanded that without delay it should be put into the Boat, hauing neither Saile nor Rudder to guide it, and so to be carried into the midst of the Sea, and there left to the wind and the waues, as the Destinies please to appoint. The very Ship-men, seeing the sweet countenance of the yong Babe, began to excuse the King of rigour, and to pittie the Childs hard Fortune: but feare constrained them to that which their nature did abhorre: so that they placed it in one of the ends of the Boat, and with a few greene boughes made a homely Cabin to shroud it as well as they could from wind and weather. Hauing thus trimmed a Boat, they tyed it to a ship, & so haled it into the maine Sea, and then cut in sunder the Cord: which they had no sooner done, but there arose a mighty Tempest, which tossed the little Boat so vehemently in the waues, that the Ship-men thought it could not continue long without sincking: yea the storme grew so great, that with great labour and perill they got to the shore. But leauing the Child to her Fortunes, we will returne to Pandosto: who not yet glutted with sufficient reuenge, deuised which way he should best increase his wifes calamity. But first assembling his Nobles and Counsellors, hee called her (for the more reproach) in open Court, where it was objected against her, that she had committed adultery with Egistus, and conspired with Franion to poyson Pandolt her Husband; but their pretence being partly spied, she counselled them to flie away by night, for their better safety. Bellaria (who standing like a prisoner at the Barre, and feeling in her selfe a cleere conscience to withstand her false accusers) seeing no lesse then death could pacifie her Husbands wrath, wared bold, and desired that she might haue Law and Justice:

The History of

(for mercy she neither craved nor hoped) and that those perswaded wretches, which had falsely accused her to the King, might be brought before her face to give in evidence. Pandolfo (whose rage and jealousy was such, as no reason nor equity could appease) told her, that for her accusers, they were of such credit, as their words were sufficient witness, and that the sodaine and secret flight of Egistus and Franion confirmed that which they had confessed; and as for her, it was her part to deny such a monstrous crime, and to be impudent in forswearing the fact, since she had passed all shame in committing the fault: but her countenance should stand for no coyne: for as the bastard which she bare was loved, so she should with some cruell death be requited. Bellaria no whit dismayed, with this rough reply, told her Husband Pandolfo, that hee spake upon choller, and not conscience: for her vertuous life had ever beene such, as no spot of suspicion could ever staine it. And if shee had borne a friendly countenance to Egistus, it was in respect he was his friend, and not for any lusting affection: therefore if shee were condemned without any further proofe it was rigour and not Law. The Noble-men which sate in Judgement, said that Bellaria spake reason, and intreated the King that her accusers might be openly examined, and sworn: if then the evidence were such as the Jury might finde her guilty (for seeing she was a Prince, she ought to be tried by the Peeres) then let her have such punishment as the extremitie of the Law will assigne to such malefactors. The King presently made answer, that in this case hee might, and would dispence with the Law. And that the Jury being once pannelled, they should take his word for sufficient evidence, otherwise hee would make the proudest of them repent it. The Noblemen seeing the King in choller, were all whist, but Bellaria, whose life hung in the ballance, fearing more perpetuall infamy, then momentany death, told the King, if his fury might stand for a Law, that it were better to have the Jury yeeld their verdict, & there upon she fell downe upon her knees, and desired the King, that for the love he bare to his yong Sonne Gariater, whom she brought into the world that he would grant her a request, the which was this, that it would please his Majesty to send fire of his Noble-men whom he

Dorastus and Fawnia.

he best trusted to the Isle of Delphos, there to inquire of the Oracle of Apollo, whether she had committed adultery with Egistus, or conspired to payson him with Franion : and if the god Apollo, who by his diuine essence knowes all secrets, gaue answer that she was guilty, she was content to suffer any torment, were it neuer so terrible. The request was so reasonable that Pandosto could not for shame deny it, vnlesse he would bee counted of all his Subjects more wilfull then wise. Hee therefore agreed, that with as good speed as might bee, there should be certaine Ambassadors dispatcht to the Isle of Delphos : and in the meane season he commanded that his wife should bee kept in close Prison. Bellaria hauing obtained this grant, was now more carefull of her little Babe that floated on the Seas, then sorrowfull for her owne mishap : for of that shee doubted ; but of her selfe shee was assured : knowing that if Apollo should giue sentence according to the thoughts of her heart, yet the sentence should goe on her side, such was the cleerenesse of her mind in this case. But Pandosto (whose suspicious head still remained in one song) chose out six of his Nobility, whom hee knew were scarce indifferent men in the Queenes behalfe, and prouiding all things fit for their journey, sent them to Delphos. They willing to fulfill the Kings commaund, and desirous to see the situation and custome of the Island, dispatched their affaires with as much speed as might bee, and embarked themselves to the voyage, which, (the wind and weather seruing fit for their purpose) was soone ended. For within three weeks they arrived at Delphos : where they were no sooner set on Land, but with great deuotion they went to the Temple of Apollo, and there offering sacrifice vnto the god, and gifts to the Priest, as the custome was, they humbly craued an answer of their demaund. They had not long kneeled at the Altar, but Apollo with a loud voice sayd : Bohemians what yee finde behinde the Altar, take, and depart. They forthwith obeyed the Oracle, found a scrowle of Parchment, wherein were witten these words in Letters of Gold.

• The Oracle.

Suspition is no prooffe : Iealousie is an vnequall Iudge : *Bellaria* is chaste : *Egistus* blamelesse : *Franion* a true Subject :

The History of

Pandosto treacherous, his Babe innocent, and the King shall die without an heire, if that which is lost be not found.

As soone as they had taken out this Scrowle, the Priest of the god commanded them, that they should not presume to read it, before they came to the presence of *Pandosto*, vntlesse they would incurre the displeasure of *Apollo*. The Bohemian Lordes carefully obeying his command, taking their leave of the Priest, with great reuerence departed out of the Temple and went to their Ships: and as soone as Wind would permit them, sayled towards Bohemia, where in short time they safely arriued, and with great Triumph issuing out of their Ships, went to the Kings Palace, whom they found in his Chamber accompanied with other Noble-men. *Pandosto* no sooner saw them, but with a merry countenance he welcomed them home, asking what newes: They told his Majesty, that they had receiued answer of the god written in a Scrowle: but with this charge, that they should not reade the contents before they came in the presence of the King: and with that they deliuered him the Parchment. But his Noble-men intreated him, that sith therein were contained either the safety of his Wifes life and honestie, or her death, or perpetuall infamy; that hee would haue his Nobles and Commons assembled in the Iudgement Hall, where the Queene, brought in as a prisoner, should heare the contents: If shee were found guilty by the Oracle of the god, then all should haue cause to thinke his rigour proceeded of due desert: if her Grace were found faultlesse, then shee should be cleared before all, sith she had beene accused openly. This pleased the King, so that he appoynted the day, and assembled all the Lordes and Commons, and caused the Queene to be brought in before the Iudgement Seat, commanding that the Iudgement should bee read: wherein shee was accused of Adultery with *Eginus*, and of conspiracy with *Franion*. *Bellaria* hearing the contents, was no whit astonished, but made this cheerefull answer,

If the diuine powers bee priuie to humane Actions, (as no doubt they are) I hope my patience shall make fortune blush, and my vnspotted life shall stayne spitefull discredit. For al-

though

Dorastus and Fawnia.

though lying report hath sought to appeach mine honour, and suspicion hath intended to soyle credit with infamie : yet where vertue keepeth the Fort, report and suspicion may assaile, but neuer lacke. Now I haue led my life befoze Egistus comming, I appeale (Pandoſto) to the gods and to thy conscience. What hath passed betweene him and me, the gods onely know, and I hope will presently reueale. That I loued Egistus, I cannot deny, that I honoured him, I shame not to confesse. To the one I was forced by his vertue ; to the other for his dignities. But as touching lasciuious lust, I say, Egistus is honest, and hope my selfe to be found without spot. For Franion, I can neither accuse him nor excuse him: I was not priuy to his departure : And that this is true which I haue heere rehearsed, I referre my selfe vnto the diuine Oracle.

Bellaria had no sooner sayd, but the King commanded that one of the Dukes should read the contents of the Scrowle, which after the Commons had heard, they gaue a great shout, reioycing and clapping their hands that the Queene was cleare of that false accusation. But the King, whose conscience was a witnesse against him of his witlesse fury, and false suspected Zealousie, was so ashamed of his rash folly, that hee intreated his Nobles to perswade Bellaria to forgive and forget these injuries, promising not only to shew himselfe a loyall and louing Husband, but also to reconcile himselfe to Egistus and Franion: reuealing then befoze them all the cause of their secret flight, and how treacherously he thought to haue practised his death, if the good minde of his Cup-bearer had not preuented his purpose. As thus he was relating the whole matter, there was word brought him, that his young Sonne Garinter was suddenly dead : which newes so soone as Bellaria heard, surcharged befoze with extreame joy, and now suppressed with heauy sorrow, her vitall spirits were stopped, that she fell downe presently dead, and could neuer be reuiued. This sudden sight so appalled the Kings senses, that he sunke from his Seat in a swoond, so as he was faine to be careied by his Nobles to his Palace, where he lay by the space of thre daies without speech.

The History of

His Commons were as men in despaire, so diuersly distressed, there was nothing but mourning and lamentation to bee heard throughout all Bohemia: their young Prince dead, their vertuous Queene bereaued of her life, and their King and Soueraigne in great hazard: this tragicall discourse of Fortune so daunted them, as they went like shadows, not men: yet somewhat to comfort their heauy hearts, they heard that Pandosto was come to himselfe, and had recovered his speech: who, as in fury, brayed these bitter speeches.

O Miserable Pandosto! what surer witnes then conscience: what thoughts more sorrowe then suspicion: what plague more bad then Jealousie: Unnaturall actions offend the gods, more then men: and causlesse cruelty neuer escapes without reuenge. I haue committed such a bloudy fact, as repent I may, but recall I cannot. Ah Jealousie, a hell to the mind, and a horrour to the conscience, suppressing reason, and melting rage: a worse passion then frenzy, a greater plague then madness. Are the gods just: then let them reuenge such brutish cruelty: my innocent Babe I haue drowned in the Seas: my louing wife I haue slaine with slanderous suspicion: my trusty friend I haue sought to betray: and yet the gods are slacke to plague such offences. Ah vnjust Apollo, Pandosto is the man that hath committed the fault; why should Garinter, silly Child abide the paine: Well sith the gods meane to prolong my daies to increase my dolour, I will offer my guilty blood a sacrifice to those guiltlesse soules, whose liues are lost by rigorous folly. And with that hee reached at a Rapier to haue murdered himselfe: but his Peeres being present, stayed him from such a bloudy act: perswading him to thinke, that the Commonwealth consisted on his safety, and that those sheepe could not but perill that wanted a Shepheard: wishing that if hee would not liue for himselfe, yet hee should haue a care of his Subjects, and to put such fancies out of his mind, sith in sores past helpe, salues doe not heale, but hurt: and in things past cure, care is a corrosiue. With these and such like perswasions, the king was overcome, and began somewhat to quiet his minde: so that so soone as he could goe abroad, he caused his wife to be imbalmed,

Dorastus and Fawnia.

and wꝛapt in Lead, with her young Sonne Garinter: erecting a rich and famous Sepulchre, wherein hee intombed them both, making such solemne obsequies at her Funerall, as all Bohemia might perceiue he did greatly repent him of his soze-pastd folly: causing this Epitaph to bee ingrauen on her Tombe, in Letters of Gold.

The Epitaph.

*Here lyes intombde Bellaria faire,
t alſly accus'd to be vnchaſte:
Cleer'd by Apollo's ſacred doome.
Yet ſlaine by Iealouſie at laſt.*

*What-ere thou be that paſſeſt by,
Curſe him that cauſ'd this Queene to dye.*

This Epitaph being engrauen, Pandosto would once a day repaire to the Tombe, and there, with watry plaints, bewaile his misfortune: coueting no other companion but sorrow, and no other harmonie but repentance. But leauing him to his dolorous passions, at last let vs come to shew the tragicall discourse of the young Infant.

Who being tossed with wind and waues, floated thw whole dayes without succour, ready at euery puffe to bee drowned in th Sea: till at the last the tempest ceased and the little Boat was driuen with the tide into the Coast of Cycilia: where sticking vpon the Sands, it rested. Fortune minding to bee wanton, (willing to shew that as shee hath wzincles on her bzolues, so she hath dimples in her cheekes) thought after so many solwe lookes, to send a fayned smile; and after a puffing storme, to bring a pretty calme, shee began thus to dally. It fortun'd a pooze mercenary Shepheard, that dwelled in Sycilia, who got his living by other mens Flockes, missed one of his sheepe, and thinking it had strayed into the couert that was hard by, sought very diligently to find that which hee could not see, fearing either that the wolues or Eagles had vndone him, (for
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The History of

he was so poore, as a Sheepe was halfe his substance) wandred downe towards the Sea-cliffes , to see if perchance the Sheepe was browsing on the Sea-Tuy , whereon they doe greatly feed. But not finding her there , as hee was ready to returne to his Flocke, he heard a Child cry : but knowing there was no house neere, he thought he had mistaken the sound, and that it was the bleating of his Sheepe. Wherefore looking more narrowly, as he cast his eye to the Sea, he espied a little Boat, from whence (as he attentively listned) he might heare a cry to come. Standing a good while in a maze, at last he went to the shore, and wading to the Boat , as he looked in, he saw a little Babe lying all alone, ready to die for hunger and cold, wrapped in a Mantle of Scarlet , richly embrothered with Gold , and having a Chaine about her necke. The Shepheard, who before had neuer seen so faire a Babe, nor so rich Jewels, thought assuredly that it was some little god, and began with great devotion to knocke on his breast. The Babe, who writhed with the Head to seeke for the Nip, began againe to cry afresh : whereby the poore man knew that it was a Child , which by some sinister meanes was driven thither by distresse of weather : maruelling how such a silly Infant , which by the mantle & the chaine could not but be borne of Noble parentage , should bee so hardly crossed with deadly mishap. The poore Shepheard perplexed thus with diuers thoughts, tooke pittie of the Child, and determined with himselfe to carry it to the King, that there it might be brought vp, according to the worthinesse of its birth : for his ability could not afford to foster it , though his minde was willing to further it. Taking therefore the Child in his armes , he folded the Mantle together, the better to defend it from the cold, there fell downe at his foot a very faire and rich purse, wherein he found a great sum of Gold : which sight so reuiued the Shepheards spirits , as hee was greatly rauished with joy, & daunted with feare : joyfull to see such a sum in his power; fearefull if it should be knowne, that it might breed his further danger. Necessity witht him at the least to retaine the gold , though he would not keepe the child : the simplicity of his conscience feared him from such deceitfull bybery. Thus was the poore man perplexed with a doubtfull Dilemma, untill at last the couetousnesse of the coyne overcame him :

Dorastus and Fawnia.

him: for what will not the greedy desire of gold cause a man to doe? So that he was resolved in himselfe to foster the child, and with the summe to releive his want. Nesting thus resolute in this poynt, he left seeking his sheepe, and as secretly, and secretly as hee could, went a by-way to his House, least any of his Neighbours should perceiue his carriage. As soone as he was got home, entring in at the dooze, the child began to cry, which his wife hearing, and seeing her husband with a young babe in his armes, began to be somewhat jealous: yet maruelling that her husband would be so wanton abroad, sith hee was so quiet at home. But as women are naturally given to beleue the worst, so his wife thinking it was some bastard, began to crow against her good man, and taking by a cudgell (for the most master went breechlesse) sware solemnly, that shee would make Clubs trump, if he brought any bastard byat within her doozes. The good-man seeing his wife in her Majesty, with her mace in her hand, thought it was time to bow, for feare of blowes, and desired her to be quiet, for there was no such matter: but if she could hold her peace, they were made for ever. And with that he told her the whole matter: how hee had found the child in a little Boat, without any succour, wrapped in that costly Mantle, and having that rich chaine about her necke: but at last when he shewed her the purse full of gold, shee began to simper something sweetly. And taking her husband about his necke, kissed him after her homely fashion: saying that she hoped, God had seen their want, and now meant to relieve their poverity, and seeing they could get no Childzen, had sent them this little babe to be their Heire. Take heed in any case (sayth the shepheard) that you be secret, and blab it not out when you meete with your Gossips. For if you doe, we are not like not onely to lose the Gold and Jewels, but our other goods and liues. Tush (quoth his wife) profit is a good hatch before thee dooze: Feare not, I have other things to talke of, then this, but I pray you let vs lay by the money surely, and the Jewels, least by any mishap it be espied. After that they had set all things in order, the Shepheard went to his sheepe with a merry note, and the good wife learned to sing Lullabie at home with her young babe, wrapped it in a homely blanket, instead of a rich mantle,

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The History of

nourishing it so cleanly and carefully, as it began to bee a jollie Girl : insomuch that they began both of them to bee very fond of it, and as it waxed in age, so it increased in Beauty. The Shepheard every night at his coming home, would sing and daunce it on his knee, and prattle, that in short time it began to speake, and call him Daddie, and her Mame. At last, when it grew to riper yeares, that it was about seauen yeares old, the Shepheard left keeping of other mens sheepe, and with the money hee found in the purse, hee bought him the Lease of a pretty Farme, and got a small flocke of Sheepe: which when Fawnia (for so they named the child) came to the age of ten yeares, he set her to keepe sheepe, and shee with such diligence performed her charge, as the sheepe prospered maruellously vnder her hand. Fawnia thought Porrus had beene her Father, and Mopsa her mother (for so was the Shepheard & his wife called) and honoured and obeyed them with such reuerence, that all the Neighbours praised the dutifull obedience of the Child. Porrus grew in short time to be a man of some wealth and credit. For Fortune so fauoured him, in hauing no charge but Fawnia, that hee began to purchase Land, intending after his death to giue it to his Daughter: So that diuers rich Farmours Sonnes came as wooers to his house. For Fawnia was something cleanly attired, being of such singular beauty, and excellent wit, that who so saw her, would haue thought shee had beene some heauenly Nymph, and not a mortall Creature. In so much that when shee came to the age of Sixteene yeares, shee so increased with exquisite perfection both of Body and minde, as her naturall disposition did bewray that she was bozne of some high parentage. But the people thinking she was the daughter to the Shepheard Porrus, rested onely amazed at her beauty and wit. Yea, shee won such fauour and commendations in euery mans eye, as her beauty was not onely praised in the Countrey, but also spoken of in the Court. Yet such was her submisse modesty, that although her praise dayly increased, her minde was no whit puffed up with pride, but humbled her selfe as became a country mayd, and the daughter of a poore Shepheard. Every day she went forth with her sheepe to the field: keeping them with such care and diligence, as all men thought shee was very painefull,

Dorastus and Fawnia.

full, defending her face from the heat of the Sunne with no other baile, but with a Garland made of Boughes and Flowers. Which attire became her so gallantly, as shee seemed to bee the goddesse Flora, her selfe for beauty. Fortune who all this while had shewed a friendly face, began now to turne her backe, and to shew a lowering countenance: intending as shee had giuen Fawnia a slender Checke, so she would giue her a harder Mate. To bring which to passe, shee layd her trayne on this wise: Egistus had but one onely Sonne called Dorastus about the age of Twenty yeares: a Prince so decked and adozned with the gifts of Nature, so fraught with beauty and vertuous qualities, as not onely his Father joyed to haue so good a Son but his Commons rejoyced that God had sent them so noble a prince to succeed in the Kingdome. Egistus, placing all his joy in the perfection of his sonne (seeing that he was now marriageable) sent Embassadors to the King of Denmarke, to intreat a marriage betwene him and his daughter. Who willingly consenting, made answer, that the next spring, if it pleased Egistus with his Son to come into Denmarke, hee doubted not, but they should agree vpon reasonable conditions. Egistus resting satisfied with this friendly answer, thought conuenient in the meane time to breake it vnto his Sonne. Finding therefore on a day fit opportunity, he spake to him in these fatherly termes.

Dorastus, thy youth warneth me to prevent the worst, and mine age to provide the best. Opportunities neglected are signes of folly: Actions measured by time, are seldome bitten with repentance. Thou art young, and I old: Age hath taught me that, which thy youth cannot conceiue.

I therefore will counsell thee as a Father, hoping thou wilt obey as a childe. Thou seest, my white haire is blossome for the Grave: and thy fresh colours, Fruit for time and Fortune: so that it behooueth mee, to thinke how to dye: and for thee, to care how to liue. My Crowne I must leaue by death, and thou enjoy my Kingdome by succession. Wherein, I hope, thy Vertue and Prowesse shall bee such, as though my Subjects want my person, yet shall see in thee my perfection. That
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The History of

nothing either may faile to fatisfie thy mind, or increafe thy dignities: the onely care I haue, is to fee thee well married before I die, and thou become old.

Dorastus (who from his infancy, delighted rather to die with Mars in the Field, then to dally with Venus in the Chamber) fearing to displease his Father, and yet not willing to be wed, made him this reuerend answer.

Sir, there is no greater Bond then duty, nor no stricter Law then Nature: disobedience in youth, is often galled with despiht in age. The command of the Father ought to be a constraint to the Child: so Parents wills are Lawes, so they passe not all Lawes. May it please your grace therefore, to appoint whom I shall loue: rather then by deniall I should bee appeached of disobedience, I rest content to loue, though it bee the onely thing I hate.

Egeus hearing his Sonne to lie farre from the marke, began to be somewhat chollericke, and therefore made him this answer.

What, Dorastus, canst thou not loue? Commeth this Cini-
call passion of proud desires, or pceuiſh ſtewardnes:
What, dost thou thinke thy selfe to good for all, or none
good enough for thee? I tell thee, Dorastus, there is nothing swee-
ter then youth: nor swifter decreasing while it is increasing. Time
past with folly, may be repented, but not recalled. If thou mar-
rie in age, thy Welues fresh colours will breed in thee dead
thoughts and suspicion, and thy white hayres her loathſommes
and sorrow. For Venus affections are not fed with kingdomes,
or Treasures, but with youthfull conceits, and sweet armour.
Vulcan was allotted to shake the Tree, but Mars allowed to
reape the fruit. Weeld (Dorastus) to thy Fathers perswasions,
which may prevent thy perils. I haue chosen thee a wife, faire
by Nature, Royall by Birth, by Vertues famous, Learned by
education, and rich by Possessions: so that it is hard to iudge
whether her Countie or Fortune, her Beauty or Vertue bee of
greater force: I meane (Dorastus) Euphania, Daughter and
Heire to the King of Denmarke.

Egeus

Dorastus and Fawnia.

Egistus pausing here a while, looking when his Sonne should make him answer ; and seeing that he stood still, as one in a trance he tooke him vp thus sharpely.

VVell (Dorastus) take heed, the Tree Alyppa wasteth not with fire but withereth with dewe : that which loue nourisheth not, perissheth with hate. If thou like Euphania, thou bzeedest my content ; and in louing her, thou shalt haue my loue : otherwise : and with that hee flung from his Sonne in a rage, leauing him a sorrowfull man, in that he had by deniall displeased his Father : and halfe angry with himselfe, that hee could not yeeld to that passion, whereto both reason and his Father perswaded him. But see how Fortune is plumed with Times Feathers, and how shee can minister strange causes, to bzeede strange effects.

It hapned not long after this, that there was a meeting of all the Farmors daughters in Sycilia, whether Fawnia was also bidden as the Mistresse of the Feast : who hauing attired her selfe in her best garments, went amongst the rest of her companions to a merry meeting : there spending the day in such homely pastime as Shepheards vse. As the Euening grew on, and their sport ceased, each taking their leaue of other : Fawnia desiring one of her companions to beare her company, went home by the Flocke, to see if they were well fowlded. And as they returned, it fortunied that Dorastus (who all that day had beene hawking, and killed stoe of game) incountred by the way these two maides ; fearing that with Acteon he had scene Diana : for hee thought such exquisite perfection could not be found in any mortall creature. As thus he stood in a maze, one of his Pages told him that the maid with the garland on her head, was Fawnia, that faire Shepheardesse, whose beauty was so much talked of in the Court. Dorastus desirous to see if nature had adozned her mind with any inward qualities, as she had decked her body with outward shape, began to question with her whose daughter she was, of what age, and how shee had beene trayned vp : Who answered him with such modest reuerence and sharpnesse of wit, that Dorastus thought her outward beauty was but a counterfeit

The History of

counterfeit to darken her inward qualities : wondring how so courtly behaviour could be found in so simple a Cottage ; and cursing Fortune, that had shadowed wit and beauty with such hard Fortune. As thus he held her a long time with chat, beautie seeing him at discouert, thought not to loose the vantage, but strake him so deeply with an inuicomed shafte , as he wholly lost his liberty, and became a Slave to Loue, which befoze contemned loue, glad now to gaze vpon a poore Shepheardesse, who befoze refused the offer of a rich Princeesse. For the perfection of Fawnia had so fired his fancie, as he felt his minde greatly changed, and his affection altered ; cursing Loue, that had wrought such a change, and blaineing the basenesse of his minde, that would make such a choyce. But thinking these were but passionate toys that might be thrust out at pleasure : to auoyd the Syren that enchanted him, he spurs his Horse, and bad his faire Shepheardesse farewell.

Fawnia (who all this while had marked the Princely gesture of Dorastus) seeing his Face so well featured, and each limb so perfectly framed, began greatly to praise his perfection, commending him so long, till shee found her selfe faulty : and perceiued that if she waded but a little further, she might slip ouer the shoos. She therefore seeking to quench that fire which neuer was put out, went home, and finding her selfe not well at ease, got her to bed : where casting a thousand thoughts in her head, shee could take no rest : for if she had waked, shee began to call to mind his beautie : and thinking to beguile such thoughts with sleepe, she then dreamed of his perfection. Disturbed with these vnacquainted passions, she passed the night as shee could in short slumbers.

Dorastus (who all this while rode with a Flea in his eare) could not by any meanes forget the sweete fauour of Fawnia, but rested so bewitched with her witt and beauty, as hee could take no rest. He felt fancie to giue the assault, and his wounded mind ready to yeeld as vanquished : yet hee began with diuers considerations to suppress his fantastike affection, calling to mind, that Fawnia was a Shepheardesse, one not worthy to be looked at of a Prince, much lesse to be loued of such a Potentate: thinking what a discredit it were to himselfe, and what a griefe

Dorastus and Fawnia.

griefe it would be to his Father : blaming fortune, and accusing his owne folly, that should be so fond, as but once to cast a glance at such a Country out. And as thus he was raging against himselfe, Loue (fearing if shee dallied long, to lose her Champion) kept more nigh, and gaue him such a fresh wound, as it pierst him at the heart, that he was faine to yeeld maugre his face, and to forsake the company, and get him to his Chamber, where being solemnly set, he burst into these passionate termes.

Ah Dorastus, art thou alone? No, not alone, while thou art tyzed with these vnacquainted passions. Yeeld to fancy thou canst not by thy Fathers counsell : but in a frenzie thou art, by just destinies. Thy father were content, if thou couldst loue : and thou therefore discontent, because thou dost loue. O diuine Loue, feare of men, because honoured of gods : not to be suppressed by wisdom, because not to be comprehended by reason : without law, and therefore aboue law.

How then Dorastus? why dost thou blaze that with praise which thou hast cause to blaspheme with curses? Yet why should they curse loue, which are in loue?

Blush Dorastus at thy Fortune, thy choyce, thy loue : thy thoughts cannot be vttered without shame, nor thy affections without discredit. Ah, Fawnia, sweet Fawnia, thy beauty Fawnia.

Shamest not thou, Dorastus, to name one vnfit for thy birth, thy Dignities, thy Kingdomes? Die, Dorastus, Dorastus, die. Better haddest thou perish with high desires, than liue in base thoughts. Yea, but beauty must be obeyed, because it is beauty : yet framed of the gods to feed the eye, not to fetter the heart.

Ah, but he that strueth against loue, shooteth with them of Scyrum against the Wind, and with the Cockatrice pecketh against the Steele. I will therefore obey, because I must obey. Fawnia yea Fawnia shall be my Fortune, in spite of fortune. The gods aboue disdaine not to loue Women beneath. Phœbus liked Daphne; Iupiter, Io: and why not I then Fawnia? one something inferiour to these in birth, but farre superiour to them in beauty: bozne to be a Shepherdesse, but worthy to be a Goddesse.

Ah,

The History of

Al, Dorastus, wilt thou forget thy selfe, as to suffer affection to suppress wilddome, and loue violate thine honour? How sorowfull will thy choice be to thy Father, sorowfull to thy Subjects, to thy friends a griefe, most glad some to thy foes? Subdue then thy affection, and cease to loue her whom thou couldest not loue, vnlesse blinded with too much loue. Tush, I talke to the wind, and in seeking to prevent the causes, I further the effects, I will yet praise Fawnia, honour, yea and loue Fawnia, and at this day follow content, not counsell. Doe Dorastus, thou canst not repent: and with that, his Page came in to the chamber: whereupon he ceased from complaints, hoping that time would weare out that which Fortune had wrought. As thus he was pained, so poore Fawnia was diuersly perplexed. For the next morning getting vp very early, shee went to her Sheepe, thinking with hard labours to passe away her new conceived amours, beginning very busily to drue them to the field, and then to shift the folds. At last, wearied with toyle, shee sat her downe, (where poore soule) she was more tyed with fond affection. For loue began to assault her, insomuch that as shee sat vpon the side of a Hill, shee began to accuse her owne folly in these termes.

Infortunate Fawnia, And therefore infortunate, because Fawnia, thy Shepheard Hooke sheweth thy poore estate, thy proud desires an aspiring mind: the one declareth thy want, the other thy pride. No bastard Hawke must soare so high as the Hobby, no Fowle gaze against the Sun, but the Eagle: Actions wrought against Nature, reape despiht: and thoughts aboue Fortune, disoaine.

Fawnia, thou art a Shepheard, daughter to poore Porrus: if thou rest content with this, thou art like to stand: if thou climb, thou art like to fall. The Hearbe Anita growing higher then six Inches, becommeth a weede. Nylus flowing more then twelue Cubits, procureth a dearth. Daring affections that passe measure, are cut short by time or Fortune. Suppress then, Fawnia those thoughts which thou maiest shame to expresse. But ah, Fawnia, Loue is a Lord, who will command by power, and constrain by force.

Dorastus

Dorastus and Fawnia.

Dorastus, ah Dorastus is the man I love : the worse is thy hap, and the lesse cause hast thou to hope. Will Eagles catch at Flies : Will Cedars stoop at Brambles : Or mighty Princes looke at such homely Truls : No, no, thinke this Dorastus, disaine is greater then thy desire. He is a Prince, respecting his honour: Thou a Beggar that forgetting thy calling. Cease then not onely to say, but to thinke to love Dorastus : and dissemble thy love, Fawnia. For better it were to die with griefe, then to live with shame. Yet in despite of Love, I will sigh, to see if I can sigh out Love. Fawnia, somewhat appealing her griefes with these pithy perswasions, began after her wonted manner to walke, about her sheepe, and to keepe them from straying into the Cozne, suppressing her affection with the due consideration of her base estate, and with impossibilitie of her love, thinking it were frenzy (not fancy) to covet that which the very destinies deny her to obtaine.

But Dorastus was more impatient in his passions : for love so fiercely assailed him, that neither company, nor Musicke could mitigate his Martyredome : but did rather far the more increase his Maladie. Shame would not let him craue counsell in this case : nor feare of his Fathers displeasure, reveale it to any secret friend : but hee was faine to make a Secretarie of himselfe, and to participate his thoughts with his owne troubled mind. Lingring thus a while in doubtfull suspence, at last stealing secretly from the Court, without either men or Page, hee went to see if hee could espie Fawnia walking abroad in the field. But, as one having a great deale more skill to retrieve the Partridge with the Spaniels, then to Hunt after such a strange prey, he sought, but was little the better. Which crosse lucke drove him into a great choller, that he began both to accuse Love and Fortune, But as hee was ready to retire, he saw Fawnia sitting all alone under the side of an Hill, making a Garland of such homely flowers as the fieldes did afford. This sight so revived his spirits, that he drew nigh, with more judgement to make a view of her singuler perfection : which hee found to be such, as in that Countrey attyre shee stayned all the Courtly Dames of Sycilia. While thus he stood gazing with piercing lookes on her surpassing beauty, Fawnia cast her eye

The History of

alloe, and espied Dorastus. Which sudden sight made the poore Girle to blush, and to dye her chrysell cheeks with the Vermilion red : which gaue her such a grace, as she seemed farre more beautifull : and with that she rose vp, saluting the Prince with such modest courtesies, as hee wondered how a Country mayd could affoord such homely behauiour. Dorastus repaying her courtesie with a smiling countenance, began to parle with her on this manner.

Fayre mayd (quoth he) either your want is great, or a Shepherds life is very sweet, that your delight is in such country labours. I cannot conceiue what pleasures you should take, vnlesse you meane to ymitate the Nymphs, being your selfe so like a Nymph. To put me out of this doubt, shew me what is to bee commended in a Shepherds life, and what pleasures you haue to counteruayle these drudging labours, Fawnia, with blushing face, made him this answer.

Sir, what richer state then content: or what sweeter life then quiet: Wee Shepherds are not bozne to honour, nor beholding vnto beauty : the lesse care wee haue to feare fame or fortune. Wee count our attyre braue enough, if warme enough and our food daynty, if to suffice Nature : our greatest enemy is the Wolfe : our onely care in safe keeping our flocke : in stead of courtly Ditties, wee spend the dayes with country Songs : our amorous conceits are homely thoughts, delighting as much to talke of Pan and his country pranks, as Ladies to tell of Venus and her wanton toyes. Our toile is in shifing our folds and looking to the Lambes, easie labours : of sitting and telling tales ; homely pleasures : our greatest wealth, not to couet : our honour, not to climbe : our quiet, not to care. Enuy looketh not so low as Shepherds : Shepherds gaze not so high as ambition : we are rich, in that we are poore with content : and proud onely in this, that we haue no cause to be proud.

This witty answer of Fawnia, so inflamed Dorastus, fancy, that he commending himselfe for making so good a choyce: thinking, if her birth were answerable to her wit and Beauty, that

Dorastus and Fawnia.

that shee were a fitt Gate for the most famous Prince in the world. Hee therefore began to list her moze narrowly on this manner.

Fawnia, I see thou art content with country labours, because thou knowest not Courtly pleasures : I commend thy wit, and pittie thy want. But wilt thou leaue thy fathers Cottage, and serue a Courtly mistresse :

Sir (quoth she) beggers ought not to strue against fortune, nor to gaze against honoz ; least either their fall bee greater, or they become blind. I am bozne to toyle for the Court, not in the Court : my nature vnfit for their nature : better line in meane degree, then in high disdayne.

Well sayd, Fawnia (quoth Dorastus) I gesse at thy thoughts thou art in loue with some Country shepheard.

No sir (quoth she) shepheards cannot loue, that are so simple and mayds may not loue, that are so young.

May therefore (quoth Dorastus) mayds must loue because they are yong : for Cupid is a child, and Venus, though old, is paynted with fresh colours.

I grant (sayd she) age may be paynted with new shadowes, and youth may haue imperfect affections : but, what Art concealeth in one, ignorance reuealeth in another. Dorastus seeing Fawnia hold him so hard, thought it was vayne so long to beate about the bush : therefore hee thought to haue giuen her a fresh charge ; but hee was so pzeuented by certaine of his men, who missing their master, came posting to seeke him, seeing that hee was gone forth all alone : yet befoze they dzeu so nigh, that they might heare their talke, he vsed these speeches.

Why, Fawnia, perhaps I loue thee, and then thou must needs yeeld : for thou knowest I can command and constrainne. Tush Sir (quoth shee) but not to loue, for constrainned loue is force, not loue : And know this, Sir : mine honesty is such, as I had rather dye, then be a concubine euen vnto a King : and my birth is so base, as I am vnfit to be a wife vnto a pooze farmoz. Why then (quoth he) thou canst not loue Dorastus. Yes, sayd Fawnia, when Dorastus becomes a shepheard. And with that, the pzeence of his men broke off their Parle, so that hee went
with

The History of

with them to the Pallace, and left Fawnia sitting still on the Hill side: who seeing that she might dzeu on, shifted her Folds and busied her selfe about other worke, to dzeu away such fond fancies as began to trouble her bzaine. But all this could not pzeuails; for the beauty of Dorastus had made such a deepe impression in her heart, as it could not be worne out without cracking so that she was fayne to blame her owne folly in this wise.

A Fawnia, why dost thou gaze against the Sunne, or catch at the wind? Starres are to be looked at with the eye, not reached at with the hand: thoughts are to bee measured by fortunes, not by desires: fals comes not by sitting low, but by climbing too high. What then, shall all feare to fall, because some hap to fall? No, lucke commeth by Lot, and Fortune windeth those Threads which the Destenies spin. Thou art fauoured, Fawnia, of a Prince, and yet thou art so fond to reject desired fauours. Thou hast deniall at thy tongues end, and desire at thy hearts bottome. A Womans fault, to spurne at that with her foot, which she greedily catcheth at with her hand. Thou louest Dorastus, Fawnia; and yet seemest to lowze. Take heed, if he retire, thou wilt repent: for vnlesse he loue, thou canst but dy. Dye then, Fawnia: for Dorastus doth but jest. The Lyon neuer pzeueth on the Mouse: nor doe Fawlicons stoop to dead fables. Sit downe then in this sorrow: cease to loue, and content thy selfe, that Dorastus will vouchsafe to flatter Fawnia, though not to fancy Fawnia. Heigh hoe: Ah foole, it were seemlier for thee to whistle as a Shepheard, then to sigh as a Lauer: and with that she ceased from these perplexed passions, folding her Sheep, and hying home to her poore Cottage. But such was the vncoustant sorrow of Dorastus, to thinke on the wit and beauty of Fawnia, and to see how fond he was, being a Prince: and how froward she was, being a begger: that he began to lose his wonted appetite: to looke pale and wan: in stead of mirth, hee fed on Melancholly: for Courtly dances, to vse colde dumps. Insomuch, that not onely his owne men, but his father, and all the Court began to maruell at his sudden change, thinking that some lingring sicknesse had brought him into this state. Wherefore hee caused Physicians to come. But Dorastus nether would

Dorastus and Fawnia.

would let them minister, nor so much as suffer them to see hisazine : but remayned still so oppressed with these passions as hee feared in himselfe a further inconuenience. His Honour wished him to cease from such folly : but loue forced him more to follow fancy : yea, and in despite of Honour, Loue won the conquest, so that his hot desires caused him to find new devices. For hee presently made himselfe a Shepheards Coate, that hee might goe vnknowne, and with lesse suspicion, to prattle with Fawnia : and conueyed it secretly into a thicke Grove, hard adjoyning to the Palace : whither, finding fit time and opportunity, he went all alone, and putting off his Princely Apparell, got on those Shepheards Kobes, and taking a great Hooke in his hand (which hee also had gotten) hee went very anciently to find out the Mistresse of his Affection. But as hee went by the way, seeing himselfe clad in such vnseemely Rags, he began to smile at his owne folly, and to reprove his fondnesse in these termes.

Well sayd, Dorastus, thou keepest a good decozum : base Desires, and homely Attires : thy thought are fit for none but a Shepheard, and thy Apparell such onely as becomes a Shepheard. A strange change : from a Prince to a Peasant. What, is it thy wretched fortune, or thy wilfull folly : Is it thy cursed Destenies, or thy crooked desires that appoynt thee this penance : Ah, Dorastus, thou canst but loue, and vnlesse thou loue, thou art like to perish for loue. Yet, fond Foole, chuse Flowres, not Weedes : Diamonds, not Pebbles : Ladies which may honour thee, not Shepheards, which may disgrace thee. Venus is paynted in Silkes not, in Rags, and Cupid treadeth on Disdayne when he reacheth at Dignity. And yet Dorastus, shame not at thy Shepheards Weed : the heavenly gods haue sometime earthly thoughts : Neptune, became a Ram Iupiter, a Bull ; Apollo, a Shepheard : they gods, and yet in loue : and thou a man appoynted to loue.

Deuising thus with himselfe, hee drew nigh to the Place where Fawnia was keeping her Sheepe : who casting her eye aside, and seeing such a mannerly Shepheard, perfectly lymmed, and comming with so good a pace, shee began halfe to forget

The History of

Dorastus, and to fauour his pretty shepheard, whom thee thought thee might both loue & obtaine. But as she was in these thoughts she perceiued then it was the young Prince Dorastus: wherfoze she rose vp, and reuerently saluted him. Dorastus taking her by the hand, repayed her courtesie with a sweet kisse, and praying her to sit downe by him, he began thus to lay the batterp.

If thou maruell, Fawnia at my strange affire, thou wouldst more muse at my vnaccustomed thoughts: the one disgraceth but my outward shape: the other disturbeth my inward senses: I loue Fawnia, and therefore what loue liketh, I cannot mislike. Fawnia thou hast promised to loue, and I hope thou wilt performe no lesse. I haue fulfilled thy request, and now thou canst not but grant my desire. Thou wert content to loue Dorastus when he ceast to be a Prince, & became a Shepheard: and see, I haue made a change, and therefore not to misse of my choyce.

Thuth, quoth Fawnia: But all that weare Colbles, are not Monkes. Paynted Eagles are pictures, not Eagles: Zeuxis Grapes were like Grapes, yet shaddowes: rich cloathing make not Princes: nor homely attyre Beggers: Shepheards are not called shepheards, because they weare hooks and Bags, but they are bozne pooze, and liue to keepe sheepe: so this attyre hath not made Dorastus a Shepheard, but to seeme like a Shepheard.

Well, Fawnia, answered Dorastus, were I a shepheard I could not but like thee; being a Prince, I am forced to loue thee. Take heed, Fawnia, bee not proud of Beauties paynting; for it is a flowze that fadeth in the blossome. Those which disdayne in youth, are despised in age. Beauties shaddowes are trickt vp with times colours, which being set to dye in the Sunne, are stayned with the Sunne, scarce pleasing the sight: yet they begin not to be worth the sight: not much vnlike the Hearbe Ephymeton, which flourisheth in the Morning, and is withered befoze the Sun-setting. If my desire were
against

Dorastus and Fawnia.

against loue, thou mightest justly deny me by reason: but I loue thee, Fawnia, not to misuse thee as a concubine, but to vse thee as my Wife; I can promise no more, and meane to perfozme no lesse.

Fawnia hearing this solemne protestation of Dorastus, could no longer withstand the assault, but yeelded vp the fort, in these friendly termes.

Ah, Dorastus, I shame to expresse that thou forcest me with thy sugred speech to confesse: my base Birth causeth the one, and thy high dignities the other. Beggars thoughts ought not to reach as farre as Kings, and yet my desires reach as high as Princes. I dare not say, Dorastus, I loue thee, because I am a Shepheardesse: but the gods know, I haue honoured Dorastus (pardon if I say amisse) yea, and loued Dorastus, with such dutifull affection, as Fawnia can perfozme, or Dorastus desire: I yeeld, not ouercome with prayers but with loue: resting Dorastus hand-maid, ready to obey his will, if no prejudice at all to his honour, nor my credit.

Dorastus hearing this friendly conclusion of Fawnia, embraced her in his armes, swearing that neither distance, time, nor aduerse Fortune should diminish his affection: but that in despite of the destinies he would remaine faithfull to death. Having thus plight their troth each to other, seeing they could not haue the full fruition of their loue in Sycilia, for that Egistus consent would neuer bee granted to so meane a match Dorastus determined, as soone as time and opportunity would giue him leaue, to prouide a great Masse of Money, and many rich and costly Jewels, for the easier carriage; and then to transport themselves and their Treasure into Italy, where they should lead a contented life, untill such time as either hee could be reconciled to his Father, or else by succession come to the Kingdome. This device was greatly praised of Fawnia: for shee feared, if the King his Father should but heare of the contract, that his fury would bee such, as no lesse then death should stand for payment. Shee therefore told him, that delayed danger: that many mishappes did fall out betweene the
Cup

The History of

Cop and Lip: and that to a boyd danger, it were best with as much speede as might bee, to passe out of Sycilia, least fortune might pzeuent their patience with some new despight. Dorastus, whom loue pricked forward with desire, promised to dispatch his affaires with as great haste, as either time or opportunity would giue him leaue: and so resting vppon this poynt after many embracings and sweet kisses, they departed. Dorastus, hauing taken his leaue, of his best beloued Fawnia, went to the Groue where he had his rich apparell, and there vncasing himselfe as secretly as might be, hiding by his Shepheards attyze, till occasion should serue againe to vse it, hee went to the Palace, shewing by his merry countenance, that either the state of his body was amended, or the cause of his minde greatly adressed. Fawnia, poore Soule, was no lesse joyfull, that being a Shepheardesse, fortune had fauoured her so, as to reward her with the loue of a Prince: hoping in time to be aduanced from the Daughter of a poore farmour, to bee Wife to a rich King. So that she thought euery houre a peece, till by their departure they might pzeuent daunger: not ceasing still to goe euery day to her Sheepe: not so much for the care of the flocke, as for the desire she had to see her Loue and Lord, Dorastus: who oftentimes, when opportunity would serue, repaired thither to feede his fancy with the sweet content of Fawnia's pzesence. And although hee neuer went to visite her, but in these Shepheards Bagges, yet his oft repayze made him not onely suspected, but knowne to diuers of their Neighbours: who for the good will they bare to old Porrus, told him secretly of the matter, wishing him to keepe his Daughter at home, lest she went so long to the field, that she brought him home a young Sonne. For they feared that Fawnia being so beautifull, the young Prince would allure her to folly. Porrus was stricken in a dumpe at these newes, so that thanking his Neighbours for their good will, he hyed him home to his wife: and calling her aside, wzinging his hands, and shedding forth teares, hee brake the matter to her in these termes.

I Am afraid, Wife, that my daughter Fawnia hath made her selfe to sinne, that she will buy repentance to deere. I haue
newes

Dorastus and Fawnia.

nelves, which if they be true, some will wish they had not proved true. It is told me by my Neighbours, that Dorastus the Kings Sonne begins to looke at our Daughter Fawnia: which if it be so, I will not give her a halfe-peny for her honesty at the yeeres end. I tell thee, wife, now a daies beauty is a great scale to trap young men, and faire words and sweet promises are two great Enemies to Maydens honesty: and thou knowest, where poore men intreat, and cannot obtaine, there Princes may command, and will obtaine. Though Kings Sonnes daunce in Nets they may not be seene: yet poore mens faults are spied at a little hole. Well, it is a hard care where kings lusts are lawes, and that they should binde poore men to that which they themselves wilfully breake.

Peace, Husband (quoth his wife) take heed what wee say: Speake no more then you should, least you heare what you would not. Great streames are to be stopped by sleight, not by force: and Princes to bee perswaded by submission, not by rigour. Doe what you can, but no more then you may, least in saving Fawnia's Mayden-head, you lose your owne head. Take heed, I say, it is ill jesting with edged fooles, and bad sporting with kings. The Wolfe had his skin pulled over his eares, for but looking into the Lyons den.

Tush, wife (quoth he) thou speakest like a Foole: If the king should know that Dorastus had gotten our Daughter with child (as I feare it will fall out little better) the Kings fury would be such, as no doubt we should both lose our goods and liues necessarily therefore hath no Law, and I will prevent this mischief with a new device that is come into my head, which shall neither offend the King, nor displease Dorastus. I meane to take the chaine & the Jewels that I found with Fawnia, and carry them to the King; letting him then to vnderstand, how she is none of my daughter, but that I found her beaten by with the water alone in a little Boat, wrapped in a rich mantle, wherein was inclosed this Treasure. By this meanes, I hope the King will take Fawnia into his service, and we, whatsoever chanceth, shall be blamelesse. This devise pleased the good-wife very well, so that they determined as soone as they might know the King at leisure, to make him priuy to this case.

The History of

In the meane time, Dorastus was not slacke in his affaires, but applied his matters with such diligence, that he prouided all things fit for their Journey. Treasure and Jewels hee had gotten great store, thinking there was no better friend then money in a strange Countrey. Rich attire he had prouided for Fawnia: and because hee could not bring the matter to passe without the helpe and aduice of some one, he made an old seruant of his called Capnio, who had serued him from the child-hood, priuie to his affaires: who, seeing no perswasions could preuaile to diuert him from his settled determination, gaue his consent, and dealt so secretly in the cause, that within short space he had gotten a Ship ready for their passage. The Mariners seeing a fit gale of Winde for their purpose, wished Capnio to make no delayes, lest if they pretermitted this good Weather, they might stay long ere they had such a faire wind. Capnio fearing that his negligence should hinder their Journey, in the night time conveyed the trunks full of Treasure into the Ship, and by secret meanes let Fawnia vnderstand, that the next Morning they meant to depart. Shee vpon these newes slept very little that night, but got her vp very early, and went to her Sheepe, looking euery minute when she should see Dorastus: who tarried not long, for feare delay might breed daunger; but came as fast as hee could gallop, and without any great circumstance tooke Fawnia vp behind him, and rode to the Haven where the Ship lay, which was three quarters of a mile distant from that place. He no looner came there, but the Mariners were ready with their Cock-Boat to set them aboard: where being coucht together in a Cabbin they pass away the time in recounting their old loues, till their man Capnio could come.

Porrus, who had heard that this morning the King would go abroad to take the ayre, called in haste to his wife, to bring him his Holy-day-Rose, and his best Jacket, that he might goe like an honest substantiall man to tell his Tale. His Wife a good cleanly wench, brought him all things fit, and spunged him vp very handsomely, giuing him a Chayne and the Jewels in a little box: which Porrus for the more safety put in his besome. Having thus his Trinkets in a readynesse, taking his Staffe in his hand, hee bade his Wife kisse him for good lucke, and so he

Dorastus and Fawnia.

he went towards the Palace. But as he was going, Fortune (who meant to shew him a little false play) prevented his purpose in this wise.

He met by chance in his way Capnio, who trudging as fast as he could, with a little Coffer under his arme to the ship, and spying Porrus, whom hee knew to bee Fawniaes Father going towards the Palace: being a wylie fellow, began to doubt the worst, and therefore crost him the way and asked him whither he was going so early in the morning.

Porrus (who knew by his face that he was one of the Court) meaning simply, told him that the kings sonne Dorastus dealt hardly with him: for hee had but one daughter, who was a little beautifull, and that his Neighbours told him, the yong Prince had allured her to folly: hee went therefore now to complayne to the king how greatly he was abused.

Capnio (who straight way knew the whole matter) began to sooth him in his talke, and sayd, that Dorastus dealt not like a Prince, to spoyle any poore mans Daughter in that sort: hee therefore would doe the best for him he could, because hee knew hee was an honest man. But (quoth Capnio) you loose your labour in going to the Palace: for the king meanes this day to take the ayze of the Sea, and to goe aboard of a Ship that lies in the Haven: I am going befoze, you see, to provide all things in a readinesse: and if you will follow my counsell, turne backe with mee to the Haven, where I will set you in such a fit place as you may speake to the king at your pleasure. Porrus giuing credit to Capnioe's smooth tales, gaue him a thousand thanks for his friendly aduice, and went with him to the Haven, making all the way his complaynt on Dorastus; yet concealing secretly his chayne and the Jewels. As soone as they were come to the Sea-side, the Marriners seeing Capnio, came to land with their Cock-boat: who still dissembling the matter, demanded of Porrus, if hee would goe see the shippe: who willing, and fearing the worst, because hee was not wellacquaynted with Capnio, made his excuse that he could not brooke the Sea, and therefore would not trouble him.

Capnio, seeing that by fayze meanes he could not get him aboard, commaunded the Marriners that by violence they should

The History of

carry him into the ship, who like sturdy knaves hoisted the poore Shepheard on their backs, and bearing him to the Boat landed from the Land.

Porrus seeing himselfe so cunningly betrayed, durst not cry out, for hee saw it would not preuaile : but began to intreate Capnio, and the Mariners to bee good to him, and to pittie his estate, hee was but a poore man that liued by his labour : they laughing to see the Shepheard so affrayd, made as much hast as they could to set him aboord. Porrus was no sooner in the ship but hee saw Dorastus walking with Fawnia, yet he scarce knew her : for shee had attyred her selfe in rich apparell, which so increased her beauty, that shee resembled rather an Angell, than a creature.

Dorastus and Fawnia, were halfe astonished to see the Old Shepheard ; maruelling greatly what Wind had brought him thither, till Capnio told them all the whole discourse : how Porrus was going to make his complaynt to the King, if by policy he had not prevented him ; and therefore now sith he was aboord, for the auoyding of further danger, it were best to carry him into Italy.

Dorastus, praised greatly his mans deuce, and allowed of his counsaile : but Fawnia, (who still feared Porrus as her Father) began to blush for shame, that by her meanes hee should either incurre danger or displeasure.

The Old Shepheard hearing this hard sentence : that hee should on such a suddaine be carried from his Wife, his country and kinsfolke, into a forreigne Land among strangers, began with bitter teares to make his complaint, and on his knees to intreat Dorastus, that pardoning his vnadvised folly, hee would giue him leaue to goe home : swearing that hee would keepe all things as secret as he could wish. But these protestations could not preuaile, although Fawnia intreated Dorastus very earnestly : but the Mariners hoisted their maine sailes, waighed Anchors, haled into the deepe : where wee leaue them to the saccoz of the Wind and Seas, and returne to Egistus.

VVho hauing appoynted this day to Hunt in one of his Forrests, called for his Sonne Dorastus, to goe sport himselfe,

Dorastus and Fawnia.

himselfe, because he saw that of late he began to lowze : but his men made answer, that hee was gone abroad none knew whether, except hee were gone to the Grove to walke all alone, as his custome was euery day.

The King willing to waken him out of his dumpe, sent one of his men to goe seeke him, but in vaine : for at the last he returned, but find him he could not, so that the King went himselfe to goe see the sport : where passing away the day, returning at night from hunting, he asked for his Son, but he could not be heard of, which dzaue the king into a great choller : whereupon most of his Noble-men and other Courtiers posted abroad to seeke him, but they could not heare of him through all Sicilia: onely they missed Capnio his man, which againe made the king suspect that hee was not gone farre.

Two or Thre dayes being passed, and no newes heard of Dorastus, Egistus being fearefull that hee was deuoured with some wild Beasts, and vpon that made out a great Troupe of Men to goe seeke him : who coasted through all the Countrey and searched in euery dangerous and secret Place, untill at last they met with a Fisher-man, that was sitting in a little couert, hard by the Sea side, mending his Nets, when Dorastus and Fawnia tooke shipping : who being examined if he either knew or heard where the kings sonne was, without any secrecie at all, reuealed the whole matter, how hee was sayled two dayes past, and had in his company his man Capnio, Porrus, and his faire daughter Fawnia. This heauy Newes was presently carried to the King, who halfe dead for sorrow, commaunded Porrus Wife to bee sent for : shee being come to the Palace, after due examination, confessed, that her neighbors had oft told her, that the Kings Sonne was too familiar with Fawnia her Daughter : Wherebpon her Husband fearing the worst, about two daies past, (hearing the king should goe on Hunting) rose early in the Morning, and went to make his complaint, but since shee neither heard of him, nor saw him. Egistus perceiuing the Romans vnfayned simplicity, let her depart without incurring further displeasure, conceiuing such secret grieue for his Sons wretchlesse folly, that he had so forgotten his Honour and Parentage, by so base a choice to disho-

The History of

mour his Father, and discredit himselfe, that with very care and thought he fell into a quartaine Fever: which was so vnfit for his aged yeares and complexion, that he became so weak, as the Physicians would grant him no life.

But his Son Dorastus little regarded either Father, Countrey or Kingdome, in respect of his Lady Fawnia: for Fortune smiling on this young nouice, sent him so lucky a gale of Wind, for the space of a day and a night, that the Marriners lay & slept vpon the hatches: but on the next morning about the breake of the day, the ayre began to ouer-cast, the winds to rise, the seas to swell: yea presently there arose such a fearefull tempest, as the Ship was in danger to bee swallowed vp in euery Sea; the maine mast, with the violence of the wind, was throwne ouer-board, the Sailes were torne, the Tackling rended asunder, the storme raging still so furiously, that poore Fawnia was almost dead for feare, but that she was greatly comforted with the presence of Dorastus. The tempest continued three dayes, all which time, the Marriners euery minute looked for death, and the aire was so darkened with clouds, that the Maister could not tell by the compasse in what coast they were. But vpon the fourth day about ten of the Clocke, the Winde began to cease, the Sea to waxe calme, and the Sky to be cleere, and the marriners descried the coast of Bohemia, shooting off their Ordnance for joy that they had escaped such a fearefull tempest.

Dorastus hearing that they were arriued at some Harbour, sweetly kissed Fawnia, and bade her be of good cheere. When they told him that the Port belonged to the chiefe Citty of Bohemia where Pandosto kept his Court, Dorastus began to bee sad; knowing that his Father hated no man so much as Pandosto, and that the king himselfe had sought secretly to betray Egistus: this considered, he was halfe affrayd to goe on Land, but that Capnio Counsell'd him to change his Name and his Countrey, vntill such time as they could get some other Warke to transport them into Italy. Dorastus likeing this deuice, made his case priuy to the Marriners, rewarding them bountifully for their paynes, and charging them to say, that hee was a Gentleman of Trapolonia, called Meleagrus. The Shipmen willing to shew what friendship they could to Dorastus, promised to bee as
secret

Dorastus and Fawnia.

secret as they could, or he might wish : and upon this, they landed in a little Village a mile distant from the City : where, after they had rested a day, thinking to make Provision for their marriage, the fame of Fawnia's beauty was spread throughout all the City, so that it came to the eare of Pandosto : who then being about the age of Fifty, had notwithstanding young and fresh affections : so that he desired greatly to see Fawnia : and to bring this matter the better to passe, hearing they had but one Man, and how they rested at a very homely house hee caused them to bee apprehended as Spies, and sent Twelve of his Guard to take them, who being come to their Lodging, told them the Kings message. Dorastus no whit dismayed, accompanied with Fawnia and Capnio, went to the Court (for they left Porrus to keepe the Stuffe) who being admitted to the Kings presence, Dorastus and Fawnia with humble obeysance saluted his Majesty.

Pandosto amazed at the singular perfection of Fawnia, stood halfe astonished, viewing her beauty, so that hee almost forgot himselfe what he had to do : at last, with sterne countenance hee demaunded their names, and of what countrey they were, and what caused them to land in Bohemia? Sir (quoth Dorastus) know that my name is Meleagrus, a knight, borne and brought up in Trapolonia, and this Gentlewoman, whom I meane to take to my wife, is an Italian borne in Padua, from whence I haue now brought her. The cause I haue so small a traine with me, is, for that her friends unwilling to consent, I intended secretly to conuey her into Trapolonia, whither I was sayling, and by distresse of Weather : I was driven into these Coasts. Thus haue you heard my name, my Country, and the cause of my voyage. Pandosto starting from his Seat, as one in choller, made this rough reply.

Meleagrus, I feare, this smooth tale hath but small truth; and that thou couerest a foule skin with faire paintings. No doubt, this Lady, by her grace and beauty, is of higher degree, more meet for a mighty Prince, then for a simple knight: and thou like a perjured Traytor hath bereft her of her parents to their present griefe, and her ensuing sorrow. Till therefore

The History of

I heare moze of her Parentage, and of her calling, I will stay you both heere in Bohemia.

Dorastus, in whom rested nothing but kingly valour, was not able to suffer the reproaches of Pandosto, but that hee made him this answer.

IT is not meet for a King, without due prooffe, to appeach any man of ill behaviour, nor upon suspition to inferre beliefe; Strangers ought to be entertained with courtesie, not to be entreated with cruelty: lest being forced by want to put by injuries, the gods reuenge their cause with rigour.

Pandosto hearing Dorastus utter these words, commaunded that hee should straight be committed to prison, vntill such time as they heard further of his pleasure: but as for Fawnia, hee charged that shee should be entertained in the Court, with such courtesie as belonged to a straunger and her calling: the rest of the shipmen put in the Dungeon.

Having thus so hardly handled the supposed Trapolonians, Pandosto, contrary to his aged yeares, began to bee somewhat tickled with the beauty of Fawnia, insomuch that hee could take no rest, but cast into his old head a thousand new deuices: at last he fell into these thoughts.

How art thou desired (Pandosto) with fresh affections, and vnfit fancies, wishing to possesse with an vnwillling minde, and a hote desire troubled with a cold disdain: Shall thy minde yeeld in age, to that thou hast resisted in youth? Peace Pandosto blab not out that which thou maist be ashamed to reueale to thy selfe. Ah, Fawnia is beautifull, and it is not for thine Honour (fond foole) to name her that is thy Captiue, and another mans Concubine. Alas, I reach at that with my hand, which my heart would faine refuse: playing like the bird Ibis in Egypt, which hateth Serpents, yet feedeth on their Egges.

Truth, hot desires turne oftentimes to cold disdain: Loue is hittle, where appetite, not reason beares the sway: Kings thoughts ought not to climbe so high as the Heauens, but to looke no lower then honour: better it is to pecke at the Stars with the young Eagles, then to prey on dead Carcasses with the

Dorastus and Fawnia.

the Culture : it is moze honourable for Pandosto to dye by concealing Loue, then to enjoy such vnfit Loue. Doth Pandosto then Loue : Yea, Whom : A mayd vnknowne, yea, and perhaps immodest, stragled out of her owne Country : beautifull, but not therefore chaste : comely in body, but perhaps crooked in mind. Cease then, Pandosto, to looke at Fawnia, much lesse to loue her : bee not ouertaken with a Romans beauty, whose eies are framed by Art to enamour : whose heart is framed by nature to inchant : whose false teares know their due time, and whose sweete words pierce deeper then sharpe swords. Here ceast Pandosto from his talke, but not from his loue : for although he sought by reason and wisdom to suppress this frantick affection, yet he could take no rest, the beauty of Fawnia had made such a deepe impression in his heart. But on a day walking abroad into a Parke, which was hard adjoyning to his House, he sent by one of his seruants for Fawnia, vnto whom he vttered these words.

Fawnia, I commend thy Beauty and wit, and now pittie thy distresse and want : but if thou wilt forsake Sir Meleagrus (whose pouerty, though a Knight, is not able to maintaine an estate answerable to thy Beauty) and yeeld thy consent to Pandosto, I will both increase thee with dignities and riches. No, Sir, answered Fawnia, Meleagrus is a Knight that hath won me by loue, and none but hee shall weare mee : this smitter mischance shall not diminish my affection, but rather increase my good will : think not, though your Grace hath imprisoned him without cause, that feare will make me yeeld my consent : I had rather be Meleagrus wife, and a begger, then liue in plenty, and be pandosto's Concubins.

Pandosto, hearing the assured answer of Fawnia, would notwithstanding prosecute his suite to the vttermost : seeking with faire words and great promises to scale the fort of her chastity : swearing that if shee would grant to his desire, Meleagrus should not onely be set at liberty, but honoured in the Court amongst his Nobles. But these alluring baits could not entice her mind from the loue of her new-betrothed Mate Meleagrus, which Pandosto seeing, hee let her alone for that time to consider

The History of

more of the demaund. Fawnia being alone by her selfe, began to fall into these solitary meditations.

A W infortunate Fawnia, thou seest, to desire aboue fortune is to strue aboue gods and fortune. Who gazeth at the Sun, weakeneth his sight: They which stare at the sky fall oft into deep pits: hadst thou rested content to haue been a Shepheard, thou needest not to haue feared mischance: better had it been for thee, by sitting low, to haue had quiet, then by chyming high, to haue fallen into misery. But alas, I feare not mine own danger but Dorastus displeasure. Ah sweet Dorastus, thou art a Prince, but now a prisoner, by too much loue, procuring thine own losse; haddest thou not loued Fawnia, thou hadst been fortunate. Shall I then bee false to him that hath forsaken Kingdomes for my cause? No, would my death might deliuer him, so mine honour might bee preserved. With that, fetching a deepe sigh, she ceased from her complaints, and went againe to the Palace, enioyning a liberty without content, and proffered pleasure with small joy. But poore Dorastus lay all this while in close prison, being pinched with a hard restraint, and pained with the burthen of cold & heavy Irons, sorrowed sometimes that his fond affection had procured him this mishappe, that by the disobedience of his Parents, he had wrought his owne despight: another while cursing the gods and Fortune, that they would crosse him with sinister chaunce, uttering at last his passions, with these words.

A W infortunate wretch, borne to mishap, now thy folly hath his desert: art thou not woorthy for thy base minde, to haue bad Fortune? Could the deities fauour thee, which hast forgot thine honour and dignity? Will not the gods plague him with despight, that payneth his Father with disobedience? Oh gods if any fauour or iustice be left, plague me, but fauour poore Fawnia, and shrowd her from the Tyrannies of wretched Pandosto: but let my death free her from mishap, and then welcome death. Dorastus payned with these heauy passions, sorrowed and sighed but in vayne; for which he vsed more patience.

But againe to Pandosto, who broyling in the heat of vnlawfull lust, could take no rest, but still felt his minde disquieted with

Dorastus and Fawnia.

with his new loue ; so that his Nobles and Subjects maruelled greatly at his sodaine alteration, not being able to conjecture the cause of this his continued care. Pandosto thinking euery houre a yeere, till he had talked once againe with Fawnia, sent for her secretly into his chamber : whither Fawnia though unwillingly comming, Pandosto entertain'd her very courteously, vjing these familiar speeches, which Fawnia answered as shortly in this wise.

Pandosto.

Fawnia are you become lesse wilfull, and moze wise, to preferre the loue of a King, befoze the liking of a pooze knight ? I thinke ere this you thinke it is better to be fauoured of a king, than of a Subject.

Fawnia.

Pandosto, the Body is subject to victozies, bnt the mindes not to be subdued with Conquest : honesty is to be preferred befoze Honour, and a Dram of faith weigh downe a Tun of gold, I haue promised Meleagrus my loue, and will perfozme no lesse.

Pandosto.

Fawnia, I know thou art not so vnwise in thy choyce, as to refuse the offer of a King, noz so vngratefull as to despise a good turne : thou art now in that place where I may command, and yet thou seest I intreat : my power is such, that I may compell by force, and yet I sue by prayers. Beeld, Fawnia, thy loue to him which burneth in thy loue : Meleagrus shall bee set free, thy Countrey:men discharged, and thou both loued and honoured.

Fawnia.

I see Pandosto, where lust ruleth, it is a miserable thing to bee a Virgin : but know this, that I will alwaies preferre fame befoze life, and rather choose death then dishonour.

Pandosto seeing that there was in Fawnia a determinate courage to loue Meleagrus, and a resolution without feare to hate him, fleeing away from her in a rage, hee sware, that if in thort time shee would not be won by reason, hee would forget all courtesie, and compell her to grant by rigour. But these threatening wordes no whit dismayed Fawnia : but that shee still both

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despised

The History of

despighted and despised Pandosto. While thus these two Lovers
strone, the one to winne Love, the other to live in hate: Egi-
tus heard certaine Jewes by Merchants of Bohemia, that
his sonne Dorastus was imprisoned by Pandosto: which made
him feare greatly, that his Sonne should bee but hardly intrea-
ted: yet considering that Bellaria and hee were cleered by the
Oracle of Apollo, from the crime wherewith Pandosto had
unjustly charged them: hee thought best to send with all speede
to Pandosto, that hee should set free his Sonne Dorastus, and
put to death Fawnia, and her Father Porrus. Finding this, by
the aduice of counsel, the speediest remedy to release his Sonne,
hee caused presently two of his Ships to be rigged, and thorow-
ly furnished with Provision of men and Vittuals, and sent di-
uers of his Nobles Embassadors into Bohemia: who willing
to obey the King, and receiue their young Prince, made no
delayes, for feare of danger, but with as much speed as might
bee, sayled towards Bohemia; the Winde and Seas fauoured
them greatly, which made them hope of some good hap: for with-
in Three daies they were landed: which Pandosto no sooner
heard of their arrivall, but hee in Person went to meet them,
intreating them with such sumptuous and familiar courtesie,
that they might well perceiue how sorry hee was for the former
injuries hee had offered to their King, and how willing (if it
might bee) to make amends. As Pandosto made report to them
how one Meleagrus a knight of Trapolonia, was lately arrived
with a Ladde called Fawnia in his Land, comming very suspici-
ously: accompanied onely with one Seruant, and an old Shep-
heard: the Embassadors perceiued by the halfe, what the
whole tale meant, and began to conjecture that was Dorastus,
who for feare to be knowne, had changed his name. But dis-
sembling the matter, they shortly arrived at the Court, where
after they had bene very solemnely and sumptuously feasted, the
Noblemen of Sicilia being gathered together, they made report
of their Embassage: where they certified Pandosto, that Mele-
agrus was Sonne and Heire to the King Egistus: and that his
name was Dorastus: and how contrary to the kings mind hee
had priuily conueyed away that Fawnia, intending to marrie
her, being but Daughter to that poore Shepheard Porrus.

Where.

Dorastus and Fawnia.

Whereupon the Kings request was, that Capnio, Fawnia and Porrus might be murthered and put to death, and that his son Dorastus might bee sent home in safety. Pandosto hauing attentiuely and with great maruaile heard their Embassage, willing to reconcile himselfe to Egistus, & to shew him how greatly he esteemed his fauour, although Loue and fancy forbade him to hurt Fawnia, yet in despite of loue he determined to execute Egistus will without mercy, and therefore hee presently sent for Dorastus out of prison: who marueling at his vnlooked for courtisie, found at his comming to the Kings presence, that which he least doubted of, his Fathers Embassadors: who no sooner saw him, but with great reuerence they honoured him, and Pandosto embracing Dorastus, set him by him very lovingly in a chaire of state. Dorastus ashamed that his folly was bewrayed, sat a long time as one in a maze, till Pandosto told him the sum of his Fathers Embassage: which he had no sooner heard but he was touched to the quick for the cruell sentence that was pronounced against Fawnia: but neither could his sorrow nor perswasions preuaile: for Pandosto commanded that Fawnia, Porrus, and Capnio, should bee brought to his presence: who were no sooner come, but Pandosto hauing his former loue turned into disdainefull hate, began to rage against Fawnia in these termes:

Thou disdainefull basall, thou currish kite, assigned by the Destinies to base Fortune, and yet with an aspiring mind gazing after honour: how durst thou presume, being a begger, to match with a Prince: by thy alluring lookes to inchaunt the Sonne of a King, to leave his owne Country, to fulfill thy disordinate lusts: O despightfull mind: A proud heart in a begger, is not vnlike a great fire in a small cottage, which war-meth not the house, but burneth it: assure thy selfe thou shalt dye: and thou old dotting foole, what folly hath beene such, as to suffer thy daughter to reach aboue thy Fortune: looke for no other meede, but the like punishment. But Capnio thou which hast betrayed the king, and hast consented to the vnlawfull lust of thy Lord and Master, I know not how justly I may plague thee: Death is too easie a punishment for thy falshood,

The History of

and to live, (if not in extreame misery) were not to shew thee equity. I therefore award, that thou shalt haue thine eyes put out, and continually till thou diest, grinde in a Mill like a brute beast. The feare of death brought a sorrowfull silence vpon Fawnia, and Capnio: but Porrus seeing no hope of life, burst forth in these speeches.

PAndosto, and ye noble Embassadors of Sicilia, seeing without cause I am condemned to die. I am yet glad I haue opportunity to disburden my conscience before my death: I will tell you as much as I know, and yet no more then is true, whereas I am accused that I haue beene a supporter of Fawnia's pride and shee disdained as a vile beggar; so it is, that I am neither Father vnto her, nor she Daughter vnto me.

For it so happened, that I being a poore shepheard in Sicilia, living by keeping other mens flocks, one of my sheepe straying downe to the Sea-side, as I went to seeke her, I saw a little Boat driven vpon the shore, wherein I found a Babe of five dayes old, wrapped in a Mantle of Scarlet, hauing about the necke this chaine: I pittying the Child, and desirous of the Treasure, carried it home to my wife, who with great care nursed it vp, and set it to keepe Sheepe. Heere is the Chaine and Jewels, and this Fawnia is the child whom I found in the Boat; what she is, or of what Parentage, I know not: but this I am assured, that she is none of mine.

Pandosto would scarce suffer him to tell out his tale, but that he required the time of the yeare, the manner of the Boat, and other circumstances: which when he found agreeing to his count, sodainely he lept from his seat, and kissed Fawnia, wetting her tender cheekes with his teares, and crying, My daughter Fawnia, ah my sweet Fawnia, I am thy father, Fawnia! this sudden passion of the King draue them all into a maze, especially Fawnia & Doraustus. But when the King had breathed himselfe a while in this new joy, he rehearsed before the Embassadors the whole matter, and how he had entreated his Wife Bellaria for Jealousie, and that this was the Child whom he sent to float in the Seas.

Fawnia was not more joyfull that shee had found such a Father

Dorastus and Fawnia.

Father, then Dorastus was glad he should get such a wife. The Embassadors rejoyced that their young Prince had made such a choice: That those kingdomes which through enmity had long time been disseuered, should now through perpetuall amity be united and reconciled. The Citizens and Subjects of Bohemia (hearing that the King had found againe his Daughter which was supposed dead, joyfull that there was an heire apparant to the kingdom) made Bon-fires and shewes throughout all the City. The Courtiers and knights appoynted Jests and Turneyes, to signifie their willing minds in gratifying the kings hap.

Eightene dayes being past in these princely sports, Pandosto willing to recompence old Porrus, of a Shepheard made him a knight: which done, providing a sufficient pay to receive him and his retinue, accompanied with Dorastus and Fawnia, and the Sicilian Embassadors, he sailed towards Sicilia, where he was most princely entertained by Egistus: who hearing this Conicall event, rejoyced greatly at his Sonnes good hap, and without delay (to the perpetuall joy of the two young Lovers) celebrated the marriage. Which was no sooner ended, but Pandosto (calling to mind how he first betrayed his friend Egistus, how his jealousy was the cause of Bellaria's death, that contrary to the Law of nature, he had lusted after his owne daughter) moved with these desperate thoughts, hee fell in a melancholly fit, and to close up the Comedy with a tragicall stratagem, he slew himselfe: whose death being many daies bewayled of Fawnia, Dorastus, and his deare friend Egistus, Dorastus ta-

king leaue of his Father, went with his wife and the
dead Corps into Bohemia: whereafter it was
sumptuously intombed, DORASTUS
ended his dayes in conten-
ted quiet.

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FINIS.